

AUSCHWITZ :

Technique and operation of the gas chambers

by

Jean-Claude PRESSAC

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*Technique and operation
of the gas chambers*

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Auschwitz: Technique and Operation of the Gas Chambers

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Jean-Claude PRESSAC

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Beate and Serge KLARSFELD

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*Tadeusz IWASZKO zginął w wypadku samochodowym 2 grudnia 1988 roku w Legnicy, w Polsce.
Bez niego opracowanie to nie mogłoby powstać.
Ceniarz jego współpracy i bezinteresowna pomoc pozostanie książce Jego pamięci.*

*Tadeusz IWASZKO est mort dans un accident de voiture le 2 décembre 1988 à Legnica en Pologne.
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Je tiens à l'en remercier publiquement en lui dédiant mon ouvrage.*

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OVERALL PLAN OF THE WORK

A systematic study of the delousing and homicidal gas chambers of Bunkers 1 and 2 and of Krematorien I, II, III, IV and V of the former KL Auschwitz-Birkenau, and an investigation of the remaining traces of criminal activity.

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Preface

by Beate and Serge KLARSFELD

A scientific rebuttal of those who deny the gas chambers

Jean-Claude Pressac deserves our praise: he has become one of the rare researchers in the field of gas chambers extermination. In spite of the fact that he is not a Jew and was very nearly a revisionist.

After eight years at the École Militaire School, J.-C. Pressac, whose, instead of becoming an officer, to break with the army and study pharmacy.

As a newly-established pharmacist, he decided at the age of about thirty to write a work of historical fiction describing the universe that would have resulted from a German victory in the second world war.

J.-C. Pressac went to Germany and Poland to get the necessary background for his novel, and discovered the world of the concentration camps and the mechanisms by which the Jews were exterminated. He was able to overcome his initial doubts thanks to his rational and scientific training, to resist the advances of Foucault and his clique and listen only to the call of truth. This was a demanding and difficult path to follow, for in his case it was not only a matter of a comparative study of the testimonies of victims and executioners to determine the points of convergence or contradiction concerning the gas chambers. J.-C. Pressac's original and eminently logical approach was to go to Auschwitz working in the archives and inspecting the site, as often as was necessary, a total of over three months in about fifteen visits between 1979 and 1987, in order to thoroughly master his subject.

It is now almost ten years that we have been cooperating with Jean-Claude Pressac. In 1980, in fact, we found the original album of photographs that an SS man had taken of the arrival of Hungarian Jews at Auschwitz in 1944: an album that had been brought back by a deportee, Léon Jacob, when the camp was liberated. The complaint *"Auschwitz Album"* was published for the first time by our Foundation in August 1980. The following year a version for a wider public was produced by Random House. But as soon as our version was published, J.-C. Pressac had conceived us to study the original photographs, whose quality was better than that of the published version. When *Le Seuil* decided to produce a French version of the Random House edition, we put them in touch with J.-C. Pressac and he was able to considerably enrich the French edition with his

pertinent commentaries and an annex containing a number of photographs and explanations concerning Krematorien II, III, IV and V. This was published in 1983.

The previous year, 1982, in issue 107 of *"Le Monde Juif"*, the journal of the Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine de Paris, directed by Georges Wellers, whose works are references on the subject, Jean-Claude Pressac had published an important article entitled *"Les 'Krematorien' IV et V de Birkenau et leurs chambres à gaz"*.

Then, in 1985, when Editions Gallimard and Le Seuil jointly published *"L'Allemagne Nazie et le Génocide Juif"*, a fundamental work containing the proceedings of the Colloquium held in July 1982 at the Ecole des Hautes Études et Sciences Sociales, J.-C. Pressac's detailed contribution *"Etude et Réalisation des Krematorien IV et V d'Auschwitz-Birkenau"* formed an integral part of it.

That same year, 1985, our Foundation published in English a work by Jean-Claude Pressac entitled *"The Struthof Album"*.

"We decided in fact to publish a study, for the fortieth anniversary of Hitler's defeat, devoted to the terrifying episode of the assassination of 87 Jews, including 30 women, for the purpose of constituting a collection of skulls and skeletons to be kept at the Institute of Anatomy of a large German university. Because they were Jewish, these men and women were selected, asphyxiated, dismembered and carved up by men of science. Racist science. We asked Jean-Claude Pressac to study, in particular, how these Jewish victims were gassed at Struthof, near Strasbourg..."

"The record is a terrible one, but the world must confront it, for it exemplifies the horror of the Jewish condition during the Nazi period. Those things that happened must be known. They cannot and must not be forgotten. Such is the main ambition of the publications we have undertaken."

Meanwhile, in 1983, we had asked J.-C. Pressac to write a reference work with all the available drawings and photographs, devoted to the technique and operation of the gas chambers at Auschwitz-Birkenau. This initiative on our part was by no means exceptional because already in 1978 we had published in English a very detailed work entitled *"The Holocaust and the New Nazi Mythomaniac"*, containing three parts: *"The Launching of the Final Solution"* by Dr Joseph Billig, *"The Existence of Gas Chambers"* and *"The Number of Victims and the Harbinger Report"* by Georges Wellers. In our introduction to this work, the first published by our Foundation, we explained our approach, which ten years later remains the same:

"We have taken the initiative not only for the conception of this book, its edition and publication, but also for its distribution. Our objective is to provide people of good faith with the precise facts which incontrovertibly refute the lies of the Neo-Nazi propaganda relevant to the Holocaust."

"Those propagandists who seek to rehabilitate Nazism are perfectly aware that what marks it indelibly is the infamous genocide of the Jewish people. They take advantage of the credulity of the public and the more or less unconscious desire of the latter that this nightmarish mass murder had never taken place. That is why the Neo-Nazis have during recent years launched an offensive which has had a certain success. Their principal themes are the following: that Hitler was not responsible for the 'final solution', that the gas chambers as a means of exterminating the Jews never existed, that the number of Jewish victims has been very considerably exaggerated."

"This propaganda is internationally co-ordinated, and the most virulent of these Neo-Nazi publications appear in the major languages. In the following pages, we shall give striking examples of this propaganda which seeks to weaken the cause of the Jews in general as well as that of Israel."

«At our own risk, we have been leading the combat throughout the world and on the spot to challenge the impunity of the Nazi criminals and the development of Neo-Nazism. We have also decided to make publicly known the unequivocal refutations of this propaganda and to bridge certain obvious gaps regarding the history of the Holocaust. In addition our publications are distributed free of charge to research centers on the Holocaust and to sources of information everywhere: major university and public libraries, the mass media.

«We may cite as an example our «Memorial de la Deportation des Juifs de France», in which we reproduced the official Nazi data (last names, first names, places and dates of birth, nationalities) concerning 80,000 Jews who were victims of the «final solution» in France, as well as the description of each convoy. This work has put an end to the propaganda which claimed that the Jews of France had been spared.

«The Holocaust and the Neo-Nazi Mythomania» is based on irrefutable German documents. Through an examination of often unpublished papers of the Service for Jewish Affairs of the SD, a careful study of the orders for the «final solution» and the Führer's announcements of this solution, Dr Joseph Billig for the first time shows step by step how the decision to exterminate the Jews was reached.

«Georges Wellers in a first study demolishes the Neo-Nazi arguments which are in contradiction with the accounts of those, SS or inmates, who themselves saw the gas chambers in operation.

«In this second study, devoted to the number of victims, Georges Wellers brilliantly demonstrates that more than 1,800,000 Jews were liquidated by the Nazis in the Soviet Union. His conclusions are supported by indisputable figures which have never before been presented. His exploits in addition the extraordinary report drawn up for Himmler by the Inspector of Statistics of the SS, Richard Kohnert, who established with great precision the Jewish losses as of December 31, 1942, and as of March 31, 1943.

«Georges Wellers thus succeeds in demonstrating that, in taking as a basis only the indisputable figures, one reaches a total of more than 4,800,000 proven victims, all while leaving out of consideration other Jewish victims in numerous countries.»

In a later study entitled «Essai de détermination du nombre des morts d'Auschwitz» («Le Monde Juif», Issue 112, 1983), Georges Wellers reduced the numbers for deaths at Auschwitz to a level far below that, for example, generally cited in the publications of the Auschwitz State Museum! Precision should be noted. For our part, we have established the number of Jews deported from France 75,721. This figure is virtually definitive and cannot possibly be modified by more than 1%. It will be seen that it differs considerably from the official French

figure of 100,000 to 120,000 racial deportees and the German figure of 80,000 to 65,000 Jewish deportees from France. Neither in the case of the figures cited by Georges Wellers, nor our own, is it a matter of «revisionism». It is quite simply the result of meticulous examination and critical analysis of documents and sources and intensive research to discover new documents.

It was in this examination and this research that Jean-Claude Pressac devoted himself in the Auschwitz Museum, where he benefited from the enlightened help of the deeply respected Archivist, Tadeusz Waszko. Through our personal research in the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic, we were able to obtain some documentation to add to the impressive amount he had been able to collect in Poland and his exceptional field knowledge of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp.

When we see what an isolated and tenacious researcher like Jean-Claude Pressac has been able to reconstruct, starting his 35 years after the liberation of Auschwitz, we cannot but regret that it was not possible for Jewish research missions to study the Auschwitz site and its archives in 1945. But at that time there was, alas, no Jewish State, and the Jews as such were not authorized to undertake such research. They were not even authorized to appear for the prosecution in the name of the Jewish people at the Nuremberg trials. As for the archives of the Soviet

War Crimes Commission which worked for two months at Auschwitz, only fragments of them have come to light and the Soviets themselves, who lost interest in the subject after Nuremberg, do not seem to even know where they are. Thanks to the new possibilities opened up by Pnarska and the thawing of Soviet-Israeli relations, we may hope that the historians and archivists of the Yad Vashem will succeed in recovering a valuable documentation that has so far remained unpublished.

The present work will certainly open the way for other researchers to go more deeply into or modify some investigations or conclusions, and go further than Jean-Claude Pressac in the study of some particular problem or other. But we are certain that his book will remain a reference work pointing the way. In the last part of it, Jean-Claude Pressac relates with sincerity the personal path that led him, a Frenchman, not a Jew, of conservative political inclinations, to concern himself for so many years on a problem that is of such great concern to the Jewish people.

For our part, we shall continue through our actions and through our publications to strive for justice, commemoration and historical truth.

Beate and Serge KLARSFELD

† Table summarizing the findings of Georges Wellers' research:
Number of deaths at Auschwitz

Category	Total number of deportees	Number of dead				Total dead		Total survivors	
		in gas chambers		other causes					
Jews	1 433,495	1,323,000	92.3%	29 980	2.3%	1,352 980	94.4%	80,425	5.6%
"Poles" + EH *	142,940	3,895	2.5%	83,010	56.6%	83,010	56.1%	59 930	40.9%
Gypsies	21 665	8,430	29.6%	13,825	63.8%	20,255	93.5%	9 410	43.5%
Russians	55,780	1,805	3.3%	10,080	18.0%	11,685	20.9%	96	0.8%
TOTAL	1 613,455	1,334 700	82.7%	136 895	8.5%	1,471 595	92.1%	141,860	8.6%

* EH = «Erziehungslager» (prisoners interned for reeducation).

It should be pointed out that the great historian Raul Hilberg estimates the number of Jews who entered Auschwitz-Birkenau at between 1,050,000 and 1,100,000 («Le Nouvel Observateur», 3rd July 1982).

PART ONE

Delousing gas chambers
and other disinfection installations

CHAPTER 1

FOREWORD ON ZYCLON-B

In the years 1960-70, when certain bodies were requested to
in proof of the existence of homicidal gas chambers, they respon-
by sending a photographic [Photo 1] or two [Photo 2] of their documen-
tation was more complete. These "proofs" were supposed to suffice, but
they are no longer valid. At the Liberation there was a relative lack
knowledge about the toxic products used in the homicidal gas
chambers and total confusion about their respective methods of use,
since and confusion were fueled by the publication after the war of
such as "Carnet de renseignements Renseignements" by
the American (Officer François d'Edinon, 1946, in French, Arhe-
mischel "Das Litzke", undated, in German) which was more be-
lieved a historical monstrosity. Instead of presenting an objective
statements relevant to it, and this in chronological order, accounts
different sources were split up and regrouped according to a given
"explanation", "selection in the camp", "selection on arrivals",
"sorting and separation": etc., a method producing an incoherent and
contradictory whole.

Through ignorance the operation of the homicidal gas chambers
and on material impossibilities, understandable at the end of the war
this is were but rarely corrected afterwards. In "Mémorial des camps
concentrationnaires" (Editions Souvigny, Paris, 1945), the writer, the Soviet
and German Christian Serenau reports that the Zyklon-B "crystals"
introduced into the homicidal gas chambers through metal tubes of
cm diameter [meaning pointed to the ground], tubes which in fact
used to diffuse carbon monoxide (CO) coming from metal
pipes outside. I found this kind of impossible association in the
Investigation Section of the Warsaw Central Commission. I saw there
a copy of a French newspaper article illustrated by a can of Zyklon-
B surrounded by its "crystals" [Photo 1] PASTED DIRECTLY NEXT
to it, I used for pouring a liquid found at the Natzweiler [Photo 2].

The relative confusion about the method of using the toxic prod-
ucts in gas chambers was aggravated by the fact that the SS Rastenberg
grouped in the same building two completely different sanitary
baths: showers and incineration furnaces (for example in the Natz-
weiler camp in France). This gives an idea about a forced associa-

While in many homicidal gas chambers the showers were used
they were many testimonies that asserted that the toxic gas was
used by them. Confusion reinforced by the fact that Zyklon-B was
used all the regulations pest control agents used by the Wehrmacht, used
to release effects and control insects and rodents in premises. During

the trials that were held after the war, the tests of Zyklon-B ordered by
the courts were attributed to homicidal use without any confirmation.
By (in the greater part since 95 per cent) was devoted for delousing
(effects and buildings) while only a very small quantity (less than 5 per
cent) had been used for homicidal purposes.

Photo 1 (PWW.org no 1192)

The small blue pellets (Zyklon-B) contained in a
can of Zyklon-B containing 500g of product used



Photo 2
(PWW.org no 452)

A 4.5-litre filter cartridge for use
with Zyklon-B manufactured
by the firm (Karlshof) of
Berlin with and Karyerwerke
of Litzke.

Photo 3

The barrel with a tap connected to La
1. Rastenberg, which was used
to supply water to a mixture of chem-
icals in order to generate poison. It led to
the gas chambers at Natzweiler, which was
used for the first time in August 1941.

Photo 4 in the French "C" and Museum
of the Resistance and Deportation, La
Cité de la Résistance.



This lack of knowledge and collusion led to a complete gap in people's state, summed up perfectly in Korik's drawing below (Photo 4, correct from 50 of the above cited evidence published by Adam Micheli in June 1985).

Photo 4.



Before studying in detail the design and operation of the gas chambers, definitely in detail, but based on the same principle, it is essential to study the 1944 products used in them. In Auschwitz, Birkenau, and Zyklon B was used. What is this product and what are its characteristics?

The first document for the historical concerning Zyklon B is ND-9912 (CDC ref. GL187 21) (Document 4). It perfectly summarizes the difficulties of the use of this product. It is to say, this document will tell and how to protect people using it. It describes the complete gassing operation (the dosage varies) and the concentration to be used in a letter of the duration of the application. It was Faurisson who was the first to publish it, while most and historians had ignored it.

According to Faurisson, paragraph XI point 12 and paragraph XIV point 1 are vital, since they indicate that the premises must be ventilated for at least 20 HOURS and according to him, this document

"demonstrates that the so-called 'testimonies' about exceptions on the use of Zyklon B to kill inmates are false."

But Faurisson is not interested in the properties of HCN (prussic or hydrocyanic acid), because these details do not fit his affirmations. In Krematorium I, the cyanide gas chamber would not have been seen in the furnace room because there would be the risk of the HCN exploding. The concentration used for homicidal gassing is approximately 12g/m³ and in the risk of explosion appears at 75g/m³ (as low as 67.7g/m³) his argument collapses for Krematorium I. It does not fit in the case of Krematorium II and III, since the gas chambers were in the basement and the furnaces on the ground floor, not in IV and V, where the gas chambers were separated from the furnaces by an attic, the storage/heating rooms and a vestibule.

Faurisson's second affirmation was advanced as a desperate attempt to explain the presence of cyanides, found as the result of toxicological analyses of the upper ventilation grids of Leichenkammer I (underground morgue, then gas chamber) of Krematorium I and II indicating the use of HCN in these basement premises. He explains that

"a morgue is a deconstructed camp Zyklon-B."

Here again, he is out of luck, for HCN has an effect on bacteria. Disinfection is not carried out with a powerful antiseptic such as Zyklon-B, but with a bactericide such as bleach.

ND-9912 was an unexpected disciple owed to Faurisson: the political cartoonist Krok. Two pages (40 and 61) of his album «Le Voleur» deal with testimonies/war stories (60) and the ventilation of gas chambers (61) (Photo 5). Page 60 is excellent, and I mean that. As his page 61, Krok has accused himself to be trapped by the argument of mortars who spend their lives trying to demonstrate that something never existed. Krok, an absolute master, arrived in here directly when watching a scene of gassing at Treblinka in the film «Au nom du peuple français» interview with Krok by the newspaper «Libération» of 30 August 1986. He argued that the Treblinka gas chambers used CO (carbon monoxide), contained in the exhaust gas of a tank engine (gasoline or diesel), both being equally deadly for humans. However, his drawing shows the functioning of a Zyklon B gas chamber. There is no connection between the two. Krok should have informed himself directly at Auschwitz, so that he could have avoided writing and drawing nonsense. His SS man pouring the Zyklon-B is not wearing a mask. This is impossible, for he would die as soon as he opened the can. As for the ladder leaning against the roof, I do not know what Faurisson thinks, but when, in my article on Krematorium IV and V, I stated that an SS man climbed a small ladder to reach the introduction windows in the gas chambers, Faurisson asked me an idiot for describing a practice which in his opinion could lead only to «infiltrations».

There remains the question of the 20 hours which despite appearances is very difficult to integrate in the picture of a homicidal gas chamber. I shall argue on the basis of Leichenkammer I (500 to 550 cubic meters) of Krematorium I and II. The SS where Zyklon B for an high degree of toxicity an warm blooded animals, denoting man. The restrictions came stipulated in ND-9912 has no sense in homicidal gassing, because this changes the situation radically. The space where the gas was used was closed and gas-tight. No furniture: breaking in their covering. The floor walls and ceilings were of bare concrete (except for about twenty dummy wooden shaven heads installed in the ceiling). Forced-draft ventilation would be relatively efficient in these circumstances. After 15 minutes of ventilation the air in the room would be completely renewed. A homicidal gassing (using 53g Tg of Zyklon-B for 1 000 to 1 200 persons) would last about 20 minutes, 5 minutes for the action of the HCN bringing with death (the quantity introduced being 40 times the lethal dose) and 15 minutes of ventilation BEFORE BEING ABLE TO OPEN THE GAS-TIGHT DOOR. Although a part of the toxic gas had been inhaled by the victims, this was negligible with respect to the quantity remaining, due to the initial overdose.

Here, Faurisson is right when he states that the operating sequences as described by the witnesses give rise to an almost insurmountable difficulty. For example, Camp Commandant Heese and Dr Nyarks report EXACTLY the same sequence: pouring of Zyklon-B through the openings

in the ceiling, the pellets running down the four worn mesh columns and rapid diffusion of HCN by evaporation in the room «orientated» by human body heat. In 5 to 10 minutes everybody was dead. Then there was a FURTHER wait of 20 to 30 minutes BEFORE switching on the ventilation. The door was opened and the extraction of bodies commenced immediately (roof-top). This is the process as SEEN AND HEARD by witnesses. But why wait 20 to 30 minutes after the complete death of the victims before opening the door? This is a waste of time when we consider the rapid throughput rate supported by the SS always in a hurry. Heese and Nyarks are mistaken in regards the moment at which the ventilation began. It was in fact continued for not more than 10 minutes AFTER the introduction of the gas and it was left running FOR 20 to 30 minutes BEFORE the door was opened. The witnesses state the contrary, and for them it is the truth. The fact is that as long as the gas-light dose remained closed, no SOUND could be heard and people could see INTO the gas chamber only through the inspection peephole. The switching on of the ventilation could not be heard because the noise was located in the roof space of the Krematorium and the witnesses were in the basement. What is more, there were five or six electric motors in the roof space, three of them being used for other ventilation systems. How was it possible to distinguish the noise of the gas chamber ventilation motor if that of the furnace noise of the boiler power, was running at the same time? It is true, the witnesses HEARD the noise of the ventilator fans WHEN the door was opened and they had THE IMPRESSION that the ventilation had just been switched on.

Contrary to Faurisson's allegations, Dr Nyarks stresses the difficulty of eliminating the Zyklon-B remaining, due to the initial overdose, noting that:

"In the openings between the door and the cracks of the doors small pockets of it always remained. Even two hours later it could be sufficing cough (due to the irritating effect). For this reason the Sonderkommando groups which waited after the room was equipped with gas masks. (Auschwitz) A Doctor's eyewitness account, page 413.

This type of assumption (detail) did not concern Heese, who was too preoccupied with his position as camp commandant and the purity of conscience of the SS with respect to the extermination of Jewish women and children.

In Krematorium IV and V, where gas chambers had only natural ventilation, I have found only one (extremely slight) indication in «Le cahier d'Alfred Kersch» (March 1972), where the illustration on page 37 shows the extraction of corpses from a ground floor gas chamber, hence Krematorium IV or V, by prisoners wearing gas masks. In this case, without a mask it is obvious that the immediate handling of bodies after gassing would end Krok's last drawing, death for all. It must be noted that witnesses very often do not mention details that appear so evident to them that they forget them (for example, the gas-tight type opening system at the doors of the 8-m² furnace of Krematorium IV and V) as was not described by any former member of the Sonderkommando.

Zyklon-B was produced by DEGESCH (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Schädlingsbekämpfung/German pest control

company), located at 32-40 Wernerviertelstrasse, Frankfurt am Main. Founded in 1917, by the technical committee for the control of the War Ministry of the German Government of the era, this, admittedly pacific, creation, was not exempt from certain sinister motives with regard to chemical warfare (the use of HCN as a chemical weapon is always possible because of its immediate and devastating action, making it suitable for use in the front line in order to release the terrain before an attacking army). The sole source of «Zyklon-B» has been replaced by that of «cyanide» through changing the permit support supplied by DEGESCH. Photos 7, 8, 9 and 10 come from a brochure issued by DEGESCH in 1972. Photo 7 shows unclipped gassing in a modern floor rail and Photo 8 an older one, using Zyklon in disc form (as the book by Jacobson von Lang «Erdbeben Untergrund», Belford 1964, Eberbach says of Zyklon B: «we came in the form of cardboard discs like beer wafers»). The operators are wearing gas masks lined with «A» type filter cartridges (Photo 11). Photo shows the three masks (see available: «Utopia» 1kg and 1/2 kg (from left to right) and the alternative forms of pellets and disks. The case at which these data are delivered is standard, 12kg by 0.50 by 0.50 m and contains either 12 can of 1500g, 18 x 1000g or 24 x 500g. Photo 11 shows the label from one of these cases in 1944. Photo shows the device now used to open the can (it is a screwdriver the SS used a metal rod with one end broadened and having a screwdriver the edge, the teeth fitted into the cover of the can which came off with a sharp blow with a hammer). A final demonstration of this technique can be seen in a gassing scene in Andrzej Munk's film «La Passagère», but there the SS were black rubber gloves to handle the Zyklon B, while the DEGESCH operators did without them. The director of DEGESCH

Photo 7





Photo 8

condemned to death simply on the verbal testimony of one of his employees, the book keeper Ernst Söhm, who declared that in the autumn of 1942, he had seen among the firm's records, a report of a visit, dictated by Bruno Tesch, in the course of which he is supposed to have suggested to Wehrmacht officers who told him of the difficulties caused by the mass execution of Jews by shooting, that they should kill them in disinfection gas-chambers using BW 6 product, Zyclon-B (thereafter first) containing a powerful poison, prussic acid. In 1946 simple malicious gossip could easily lead to someone being hanged. I do not know whether the "trip reports" was produced before the tribunal, but if it was not then, this trial was a masquerade.



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11
Bayerische gas mask for the Third Reich
army (model type 18) made of synthetic
rubber with five points for attachment to the
wearer's head. It is fitted with a type 18
cartridge, invented for use with Zyclon-B.
(Photo by Pierre Riviere)



Photo 12
(FBI) (see p. 105)

Zygon-B label with red printing on a
yellow background, of a 500 cc of
98% made in solid white label
"Vorsicht: Zygon-B" (Warning: Zygon-B)
on warning sign. (United)

In order to give a better understanding of the terms referring to Zyklon-B, the terms used, the concentrations in disinfestation and its toxicity, here are some data concerning its principal active agent, HCN (hydrocyanic or prussic acid)

- Molecular weight: 77.
- Weight per litre: 120g
- 1% by volume represents 12g/m³
- 1g/m³ represents 0.083% by volume
- 1% by volume represents 1000ppm (parts per million)
- 1ppm represents 0.0012g/m³ or 1.2mg/m³
- Web air, it constitutes measures whose lower and upper limits of combustion are respectively 5.6% (87.2g/m³) and 40% (480g/m³)
- Officary threshold: 2 to 5ppm (2.4 to 6mg/m³)
- Maximum threshold used in work places: 10ppm (12mg/m³)
- Exposure without a mask to a content of 100 to 200ppm (120 to 240mg/m³) for 30 to 60 minutes may result in death. The lowest lethal dose known for man by inhalation: 120mg/m³ in one hour and 240mg/m³ in ten minutes.
- Immediately mortal concentration: 300mg/m³ or 0.3g/m³
- A concentration of 24g/m³ (12%) may bring loss of consciousness in ten minutes for a man with a mask
- A concentration equal to or greater than 12g/m³ (1%) would not be considered for a person without mask except in case of
- Concentration used in homicidal gassing in Birkenau: 12g/m³ (1%) or 40 times the lethal for mortal dose
- Concentration in g/m³ and contact times recommended in disinfestation
 - Mosquitoes: 0.25 for 30 minutes.
 - Bugs: 2.5 for 1 hour.
 - Fleas: 1.25 for 2 hours.
 - Lice: 5 for 2 hours.
 - Cockroaches: 5 for 2 hours.
 - Destruction of all insects: 3 for 6 hours.
 - Rats and mice: 2.5 for 2 hours.
 - For acconing in Degesch: 2-4g/m³ for 4 hours

Concentration used for disinfesting milk according to Degesch: 10g/m³. This level, close to 1%, does not prevent Degesch operators from distributing Zyklon-B disks with bare hands and apparently without ill-effects (Plano 7 and 8).

A concentration of 15 to 20g/m³ can be reached in restoration work in the case of wooden works of art (statues) infested by death-watch beetles.

Furman has succeeded in his writings in presenting prussic acid as a dragon-breathing fire, scarcely to be approached and not cleared feet clinging strongly to the ground even when dead. This apocalyptic picture has but little to do with actual practice. If HCN was like that, the staff of Degesch would long have been unemployed. After the first world war, the Germans acquired greater experience than other nations in the handling of gases. Thus, they were the only people to have perfect mastery of the use of gas lighter than air (hydrogen) in their Zeppelin airships while the Americans who filled their airships with a non-inflammable gas (helium) suffered one setback after another. Just as the Hindenburg's accident put an end to this supremacy and to the reign of lighter than air craft, the fraudulent use of Zyklon-B to exterminate Jews stopped the spread of gaseous disinfection, although this technique is of incalculable value.



Photo 12: (1940 copy no. 1794)
Label of a Degesch packing case for Zyklon-B disks with its serial number 100 April 1944. Disinfested with this dose: mosquito from the date of dispatch.

TRANSLATION OF DOC. NO. XI-9912 Office of Chief of Counsel for War Crimes

DIRECTIVES FOR THE USE OF PRUSSIC ACID (ZYKLON-B) FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF VERMIN (DISINFESTATION)

I. Properties of prussic acid (hydrocyanic acid)

Prussic acid is a gas which is generated by evaporation.
Boiling point: 25 degrees Centigrade
Freezing point: -15 degrees Centigrade
Specific gravity: 0.69
Steam density: 0.87 (Air 1.0)
The liquid evaporates easily
Liquid: Transparent, colorless
Small: Fragrant, repulsively sweet
Extraordinarily great penetrative powers
Prussic acid is soluble in water

Danger of explosion

At 75 g prussic acid per m³ air (Normal application approx 8-10 g per m³, therefore not explosive)
Prussic acid may not be brought into contact with an open flame, glowing wires etc. because then it burns up slowly and loses all its effectiveness (carbonic acid, water and nitrogen are formed).

Toxic effects on warm-blooded animals

Since prussic acid has practically no irritative effect it is highly toxic and very dangerous. Prussic acid is one of the most powerful poisons. 1 mg per kg of body weight is sufficient to kill a human being. Women and children are generally more susceptible than men. Very small amounts of prussic acid do not harm the human body when it is breathed continuously for long and fishes are particularly susceptible to prussic acid.

Toxic effects on insects

The effects of prussic acid on insects do not depend on the temperature to the same extent as that of other gases. That is, it is also effective at low temperatures (even at 5 degrees Cent.). The eggs of many insects, particularly of bugs and lice are more susceptible than the fully grown insects.

Toxic effects on plants

The degree of toxicity depends on the type of vegetation on the plants. Plants with thick leaves are less susceptible than those with thin ones. Mildew and dry rot are not killed by prussic acid. Prussic acid does not destroy bacteria.

II. Method of using prussic acid

ZYKLON-B is the absorption of a mixture of prussic acid and an inert gas by a carrier. Wood fibre discs, a reddish brown granular mass (Diagees - Das grave) or small blue cubes (Cubes) are used as carriers.

Apart from serving its purpose as an indicator, this inert gas also has the advantage of stimulating the respiration of insects. Prussic acid and the irritant are generated through simple evaporation. Zyklon will keep for 3 months. Less damaged cases last. The contents of a can must be used up at once. Liquid prussic acid damages polish, lacquer, paint etc. Gaseous prussic acid is harmless. The toxicity of the prussic acid remains unchanged by the addition of the inert gas, the danger connected with it is however considerably decreased.

Zyklon can be rendered (harmless) by combustion

III. Possible poisoning

1. Slight poisoning

Dizziness, headache, vomiting, general feeling of sickness etc. All these symptoms pass if one immediately gets out into the fresh air. Alcohol reduces resistance to prussic acid gassing therefore do not drink alcohol before fumigation.

Prescribe 1 tablet Cardiazol or Veratril in order to prevent heart disorders, if necessary repeat after 2-3 hours.

2. Severe poisoning

The affected person will collapse suddenly and turn

First aid: breath air, remove gas mask, loosen clothing, apply artificial respiration. Lobelin, intramuscular 0.01 g. Do not give camphor injections.

3. Poisoning through the skin

Symptoms as for 1. Treat in the same way.

4. Stomach poisoning

Treat with Lobelin, intramuscular 0.01 g.
Ferrus sulphate
Burnt magesia

IV. Protection against gas

When fumigating with Zyklon use only special litter, e.g. the filter insert „A“ (blue brown) of the Auergasellschaft Berlin or of the Dr. Oetingerwerke, Lubeck. Should gas seep through the mask, wear the hood immediately and change filters after each checking the mask and in it to see whether they are tight.

The filter insert is exhausted if gas enters through the mask. If using filter -> first move around in the open air for approx. 2 minutes so that a certain amount of moisture from the breath may gather in the filter insert. Under no circumstances should filters be changed inside gas-filled rooms.

Personnel

A disinfection squad consisting of at least 2 members is employed for each disinfection project. The fumigation chief is responsible for the fumigation. His particular duties are inspection, airing, release and safety measures. The fumigation chief is to appoint a deputy in case he has to leave. The orders of the fumigation chief are to be followed without delay.

Untrained persons or persons who are trained but less so are not yet full candidates may not be called in to work on ongoing operations, nor must they be taken into gas-filled rooms. The fumigation chief must also know where to contact his personnel. Every person must still have to prove that he has official authorization for the use of pesticides for pest extermination purposes.

Equipment

Each member must at all times carry with him:

1. His own gas mask
2. At least 2 special filter inserts against Zyklon bromine acid
3. The leaflet - First aid for gaseous acid poisoning - Work order
4. Authorization certificate

Each disinfection squad must at all times carry:

1. At least 3 special inserts as used stock
2. 1 gas detector
3. 1 instrument for injecting Lobelin
4. Lobelin 0.01 g ampoules
5. Carbazol - Venazol tablets
6. 1 lever or pickaxe/hammer for opening the cans of Zyklon
7. Warning signs as per regulation
8. Material for sealing
9. Sheets of paper to serve as [distribution] pads
10. Flashlight

All equipment is to be kept clean and in good order at all times. Damage to equipment is to be repaired at once.

Planning fumigations

Can the fumigation be carried out at all?

- a) Type of building and situation.
- b) Condition of roof
- c) Condition of windows
- d) Presence of heating shafts, air shafts, breaks in the walls, etc.

Determine the kind of vermin to be exterminated

3. Calculate the space (do not rely on drawings, but take measurements yourself! Take only needed measurements, include walls).

4. Prepare personnel (Remove domestic animals, plants, food and drink, undeveloped photographic plates and gas mask filters.)

5. Find which opening will be particularly difficult to seal. (Air shafts, drains, large openings which have used boarded up, roofs.)

6. Settle necessary safety measures. (Sealing, work detachment for sealing.)

7. Fix the date for the fumigation and the time for clearing the building.

8. If necessary, arrange safety measures for the neighbourhood in good time

9. Notify authorities

VIII Preparation for fumigation

1. Seal
2. Open all doors, closets, drawers, etc.
3. Pull building apart.
4. Remove all liquids (contents of coffee, washing water, etc.).
5. Remove all food
6. Remove all plants and domestic animals (amateur etc.)
7. Remove all undeveloped photographic plates from films.
8. Remove adhesive plaster, all medical supplies, whether open or in paper bags (particularly [chemicals])
9. Remove all gas mask filters.
10. Prepare for check on results
11. Clear out personnel
12. Take over keys (every date key).

IX The strength of the gas and the time required for it to take effect depend on:

- | |
|--------------------------------------|
| The type of vermin |
| The temperature |
| The amount of furniture in the rooms |
| The imperviousness of the building. |

For scale temperatures of more than 5 degrees Cent. it is customary to use 8 g prussic acid per m³

Time needed to take effect: 18 hours, should there are special circumstances, such as a closed-in type of building, which requires less time. If the weather is warm it is possible to reduce this to a minimum of 8 hours. The period is to be extended to at least 32 hours if the temperature is below 5 deg. Cent.

The strength and time as above are to be applied in the case of: bugs, lice, fleas, etc., with eggs, larvae and chrysalises.

For clothes above temperatures above 10 deg. Cent.: 10 g per m³ and 24 hours to take effect.

For fear-moths, serve as for bugs.

X Fumigation of a building

1. Check that everybody has left the building
2. Unpack the boxes of Zyklon. Make the appropriate amount ready for each floor
3. Distribute the cans. One man to go into the building and receive the cans which have used brought up by the work detachment and to distribute them. (Have been put into the pads.)
4. Detach the work detachment.
5. Post the guards. Fumigation chief to instruct guard
6. Check that sealing and clearing have been completed.
7. Put on gas masks.
8. Open the cans, pour out their contents. The contents are to be spread thinly so that the Zyklon can evaporate quickly. The necessary density of the gas can be achieved as soon as possible. This process is to start on the top floor but the cellar is to be used with above the ground, each about the cellar have as usual. Rooms which have been sealed with should as far as possible not be re-entered. The processing is to be used slowly and calmly. The staircase particularly should only be used slowly. The processing may only be interrupted in an emergency.

9. The gas floor to be locked, masks, gas to be handled over to the fumigation chief

10. On the door fix a warning sign with the legend: "Danger. Poison gas. Danger to life. No admission." This warning sign is to be in several languages if necessary. In any case it must be marked with at least one each a head, clearly visible.

11. Gas masks, apparatus for resuscitation and gas detectors are to be kept available at all times. Every member of the fumigation squad must know where these objects are located.

12. At least one member of the fumigation squad must always remain near the building which is being fumigated. The guard

must be notified of his position

XI Airing

The airing is connected with the greatest danger for those participating. Therefore it must be carried out particularly carefully and a gas mask should always be worn. The airing should take place according to the following principles: pure air should always be worn in the shortest possible time and the gas should flow out to that side where it cannot endanger people who are not participating. Should the airing be difficult one trained man should remain in front of the building in order to watch how the gas is blowing away.

1. Take care to see that no strangers remain in the vicinity of the building
2. Post the guards in such a way that they are not endangered by the gas as it blows out, but can watch the entrances to the building
3. Put on a gas mask
4. Enter building. Close each but do not lock it.
5. First open the window on that side of the building where there is no wind. Air floor by floor. Stand on the ground floor after each floor take at least 10 minutes rest
6. The doors leading to the corridor connecting doors between rooms and windows must be opened in each room
7. Pantries and other methods used to seal the room which cannot be replaced quickly should only be removed after most of the gas has blown away
8. Cars should be taken to see that the heating system water pipes do not freeze should there be time or danger of it
9. Rooms with valuable contents, such as clothing, etc. may be locked again after the windows have been opened
10. Windows and doors which have been opened should be fastened in each a way that they cannot slam
11. Covers in chimneys may be removed after the provisional needed of the building
12. The airing should continue for at least 20 hours
13. The guard should remain near the building during the whole of this time

XII Provisional needed

A fumigated room may be released provisionally as soon as the paper strip of the gas detector is of a lighter blue than the centre colour pattern when the doors and windows are open. Only work concerned with airing and clearing up may be done in the rooms which have been provisionally released. Under no circumstances may anyone rest or sleep in these rooms. The doors and windows must be kept open all the time.

XIII Clearing up after provisional release

1. Remove remains of Zyklon from the fumigated rooms. They should generally be sent back to the factory in the same way as cans or boxes. Before boxes are sent back from the fumigated rooms the inscription «Poison» must be removed from them. Damp wet or soiled remains as well as damaged cans may not be sent back under any circumstances. They may be thrown on a rubbish or slag heap, but may never be emptied into drains.
2. Mattresses, bed or pillows, pillows, upholstered furniture and similar items must be shaken or beaten for at least one hour in the open air (if sunny at least 2 hours in the sun) under the supervision of the fumigation crew.
3. If possible the stuffing of straw pillows should be changed. The old stuffing may not however be burnt, but may be re-used after it has been aired for a further period.
4. Should the chimneys be covered from above, these coverings must be removed carefully since otherwise there is a danger that the fire in the ashes and hearths will not have sufficient draught, which may cause carbon monoxide poisoning.
5. After the final release has been made, two copies of a fumigation report are to be filed in the prescribed manner. The following points in particular should be shown:
 - a) Volume of fumigated rooms
 - b) Amount of Zyklon used
 - c) Name of fumigation chief
 - d) Names of other personnel
 - e) Time required for gas to take effect
 - f) Time at which disinfested rooms were released

BIV Final release

1. Under no circumstances less than 21 hours after airtighting was started

2. All and removed for beating into the taken back into the room.
3. Doors and windows to be closed for one hour
4. In rooms with heating facilities a temperature of at least 15 deg Cent must be produced.
5. Gas detecting. The paper strip may not show a darker blue than the lightest colour even between chimneys and mattresses when have been placed on top of each other, or in rooms that are not easily accessible and which it is difficult to air. Should the air be in the case, airing must be continued and the check for gas repeated after a few hours.
6. The deck for gas must be made in each room of buildings which are open to be used as sleeping accommodation as soon as possible. Under no circumstances may anyone sleep in a room which has been fumigated in the night following the fumigation. The doors must always remain open during the first night that the room is used again.
7. The fumigation chief or his deputy may not leave the building until the very last room has been finally released.

Issued by the Health Institution
of the Protectorate Bohemia and
Moravia in Prague

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSLATION

I, DROTHERA L. GALEWSKI, ETO B 14676, hereby certify that I am thoroughly conversant with the English and German languages and that the above is a true and correct translation of Document N° 32-002.

DROTHERA L. GALEWSKI
ETO 14676

Translation of inscriptions: *Phonix*

BUT I HAVE CHECKED A DETAIL OF HIS TESTS. THAT CONCERNING THE VENTILATION OF ZYKLON-B. HERE IS WHAT VIRTUALLY ALL THE WITNESSES SAID:

THE VICTIMS WERE PUSHED INTO THE GAS CHAMBER.

THE DOOR WAS CLOSED AND ZYKLON-B INTRODUCED.

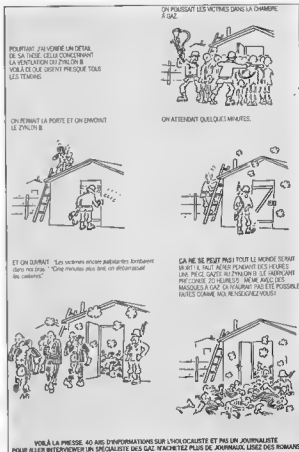
THERE WAS A WAIT OF A FEW MINUTES.

AND WHEN THE DOOR WAS OPENED: «the wall twisting «scats fell into my arms...» After minutes later, the corpse were removed.»

THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE! EVERYONE WOULD HAVE BEEN DEAD! A ROOM FILLED WITH ZYKLON-B GAS HAS TO BE VENTILATED FOR HOURS! THE MANUFACTURER RECOMMENDS 30 HOURS! EVEN WITH GAS MASKS IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE. DO THE SAME AS MR. INFORM YOURSELVES!

THAT'S THE PRESS. FORTY YEARS OF INFORMATION ON THE HOLOCAUST AND NOT ONE JOURNALIST HAS GONE TO INTERVIEW A SPECIALIST ON GASES. DON'T BE NEWSPAPERS' READ NOVELS.

Photo 6: Page 61 of *Kokk's album «Das Fildern»* published by Alter Mebel in June 1946. It is the wings (one the question of ventilation in a homicidal gas chamber relating to N° 0957 paragraph 32 point 12).



Photos 14 to 21 were taken by the author in the «reserve stocks» of the PMO



Photo 14

200-gram can of Zyklon B supplied by Degesch, exclusively produced for and used at extermination gas chambers of the Reich by the Nazis from November 1941. 200g's. The covers of these disinfectant-bathes are attached to the reception building of the Auschwitz main camp. Preserving this type of can as proof of historical gassing, as has been confirmed practices, in Germany.



Photo 15

Reverse side of the same can showing the DGT's contents, «FABRIK HAUSE 200g» and its angles, Degesch.



Photo 16

Can of Zyklon B of 1940, visible in the center of the exterior, against the label subsequently by Treich and Sabinow (Treich flag visible in the center of the exterior left of the label). The can had been used to protect the same during their transport from the factory to «concentration camps». Just of these can (14g) was enough to kill 3000 to 7000 people at the Lachowolfer 1 at concentration B and III.



Photo 17

500g can of Zyklon B from Treich, of the type probably used both in the disinfection chamber of Block 1 and those of Block 1a and 1b and also for historical gassing. The label with stamp disinfectant by Treich in other colors gives this photograph showing the line.



Photo 18

So and part of the previous label showing the manufacturer Degesch and the content 500 grams.



Photo 19

Part of the label, indicating disinfectant by Treich, Hamburg, and the serial number of the disinfectant supply by the use of the Reich to the east of the Elbe (including the Sudeten «Gau» - the German General (who arrived) in occupied Poland) the Reich Commissioner for Denmark and the Denmark, Finland and Norway.



Photo 20

Two of the distinctive yellow labels with red printing:
1. Above - from a 1000g can distributed in Treich.
2. Below - from a 500g can - released in 1935g, from Degesch.

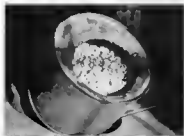


Photo 21

500-gram can of Zyklon B, without a label, containing small white pellets of poison, which, known as Treich, which it absorbed the hydrogen cyanide and together with 7% of a hydrocyanic and monomeric warning agent. The text on the «reverse» of Zyklon-B. Other warning agents were also used, rather a white brown granules (also Degesch), as dots of hydrogen cyanide (which Treichman have - probably because he and were then used in the disinfectants of the Auschwitz main camp blocks before at the time of his dealing with them on their homicidal use.

Part One of the work comprises a systematic and in-depth study, insofar as the remaining documents allow, of all the delousing gas chambers and other disinfection installations, in order to describe their characteristics and operation. The aim of this presentation is to demonstrate the rudimentary nature of the delousing gas chambers and the gradual increase in their area and volume. We pass from a fully planned complex of nineteen 10m³ chambers of the Degesch type built by Boos in the Stammlager to those of 490m³ rapidly improvised by the Bauleitung in Birkenau BW 5a and 5b. As the existence of these last is confirmed by Bauleitung drawings and the fact that they can still be seen in buildings BW 5a and 5b, their bluish walls bearing indisputable witness to their use with a hydrocyanic product, Zyclon-B, it is thus proven that the use of two underground morgues, each of 525m³, the Leichenkeller I of Krematorien II and III, as homicidal gas chambers presents no physical or technical impossibilities. The execution gas chambers in the United States are extremely sophisticated, but their design must be seen in the context of a highly technological country in peacetime, and they are presumably intended to be humane, which was not a prime concern of the SS. The presence of the delousing gas chambers also establishes that Zyclon-B, delivered by Tesch und Stabenow and by Degesch, was by no means destined solely for extermination purposes, but by far the greatest part of it was used for «Schädlingsbekämpfung» or pest control, both in these chambers and also in situ in the prisoners' accommodation blocks.

The Bauleitung SS used three different words to distinguish clearly between the methods of «disinfection» used in their sanitary buildings. Each word has a very precise meaning and applies to a single type of procedure:

- «Entlausung/Delousing»: the delousing of prisoners' effects by hydrocyanic acid (Zyclon-B) gassing in a closed space, relatively air-tight, fitted with mechanical ventilation and called a «delousing gas chamber»;
- «Entwesung/Disinfection»: destruction of pests (essentially lice) by dry heat in hot air chambers. This technique makes it possible to destroy the majority of pathogenic germs (and harmful insects), without going as far as the stage of disinfection (total destruction of pathogenic germs) nor as far as sterilization (destruction of all micro-organisms, pathogenic or not);
- «Desinfektion/disinfection»: the complete destruction of parasites and pathogenic micro-organisms in prisoners' effects using steam under pressure in autoclaves (very close to sterilization, but less complete).

THE STAMMLAGER DELOUSING INSTALLATIONS

I - THE TWO DELOUSING ROOMS IN BLOCK 26

II - THE TWO DELOUSING ROOMS ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF BLOCK 3

III - THE DELOUSING ROOM IN BLOCK 1

Although dated 23rd November 1943, this drawing 3210 of the Stammlager (wwws) is actually an earlier drawing which has been used just to show the location of the eight new watch towers. The original was probably drawn at the beginning of 1942 which would explain why in 1943 this drawing still shows a projected Kesselraum BW 47a, for which the drawings were 870, 871 and 875. The new Kesselraum with its external chimney against the wall is shown in yellow outlined in red and labeled Kesselraum I itself in yellow and surrounded by its earth embankment.

- A: The delousing gas chamber in Block 1
 B: The two delousing rooms on the ground floor of Block 26.
 C: The two existing delousing gas chambers on the first floor of Block 3.

This drawing provides the numbering of the Blocks in the main camp started according to the period and was different from that which we know now. An ex-prisoner may speak of Block R of the Stammlager, whereas now it is Nr. 23. Extreme care is required with the testimony of survivors, who must always be asked to precisely state and date the nature of their accounts something which is, unfortunately, often forgotten, particularly in France.

LAGEPLAN DES SCHRUTZHAFTLAGERS AUSCHWITZ Original drawing of the Auschwitz protective detention camp. Upper Silesia. Scale 1:1000. Drawing 3210 of 23/11/1943 (PMO reg. No. 8198).

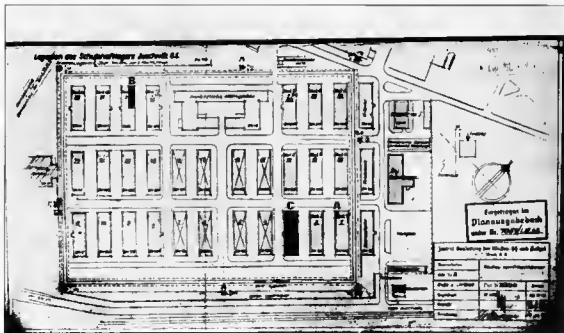
The document supplied is at the very limit of legitimacy, for the PMO does not have the original which is said to be in Moscow in the October Revolution Central State Archives. There is a good photograph of this drawing in the first bulletin of the Central Commission for the investigation ofHitlasic crimes in Poland dated 1946 volume I, page 64 photo No 5 of the Polish version.

Drawing 3
 General plan of the Stammlager showing the location of the three new delousing installations with Kesselraum I and a projected second Kesselraum.

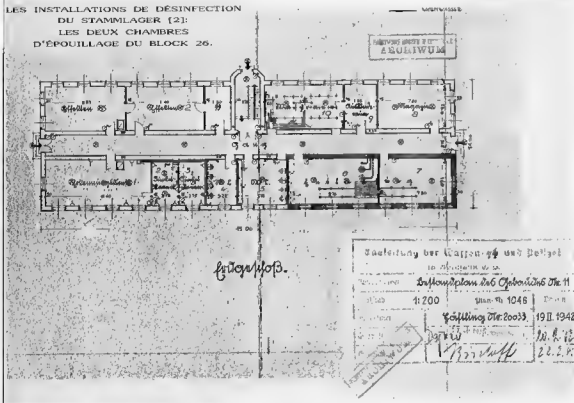
Translations of the more legible inscriptions (tag is bulletin)

Eingetragen im Planaussgabebuch unter Nr. 7059/112.43/
 entered in the catalogue of drawings under No. 7059 on 1/
 12/43
 Absteckungsplan einer Neubau von 8 Wachposten/location
 plan for the construction of 8 new watchtowers
 Grenzschuttplatz/quarry railway
 Grenzschuttplatz zur Baustelleneinfahrt rail siding connected
 to the State railway
 Blockfieberbecken/Block ablatis
 Provinzialer Häftlingsküche/temporary prisoners' kitchen
 SS Revier/SS hospital (BW 14)
 Kesselraum I/Kesselraum am I (BW 11)
 tag.gas.gas.mess

Versetzungs-Büro der Polische Abteilung/transfer
 list of the Polish Section
 Thronungsbeckenbecken
 SS Unteroffizier/SS accommodation
 Proj. Kesselraum/planned Kesselraum (BW 47a)
 Drahtzaun/wire fence
 Kommandant's/SS headquarters
 Parkplatz/absteck park
 Wachposten/quadrat (sack)
 Lagermauer/wall
 nach Belegung Befehl
 nach Anweisung in Anweisung



LES INSTALLATIONS DE DÉSINFECTION
DU STAMMLAGER (2):
LES DEUX CHAMBRES
D'ÉPOUILLAGE DU BLOCK 26.



Inventory drawing of building No. 11 designating this building as No. 11; corresponds to the first set of numbers given by the Bauleitung. This Block subsequently had the number 18 and then was given its final design mon - Block 26-. These changes in the number were brought about by successive stages in the development of the main camp.

Drawing 1046, scale 1:200.
Drawn by prisoner No. 20033 on 19th February 1942,
checked by Deitze on 20th February
and approved by Buchhoff on 22/2/42.

Drawing 1. Building drawing 1046

Management of the decontamination block and the ground floor plan of drawing 1046

1 - THE TWO DELOUSING CHAMBERS IN BLOCK 26

According to the «DECLARATIONS» conserved at the PMO, with the 100 page 48: a clothing delousing installation was installed in two rooms of the ground floor of Block 26 (Drawing 1). The work commenced in summer or early autumn 1941, was done with diligence, by the prisoners. It was probably finished at the end of 1941 or early in 1942.

The decontamination agent is not known. The plans on the inventory drawing suggest a complex installation using screens, the screen for delousing from February 1942 and, it would appear, definitive since the installation was designed almost a year and a half earlier. It could be that initially it functioned in a primitive manner as gas chambers using Zyklon-B, made gas-tight by using strips of paper, and ventilated by two air extraction fans.

Translation of the inscriptions:

ERDGESCHOSS/GROUND FLOOR

Room 1:	Fotografieren (identification service) (photograph of prisoners)
Rooms 2, 3:	Entwickeln (developing the photographs)
Rooms 4, 5:	W.C.
Rooms 6, 7:	Entlausung (delousing)
Room 8:	Morgenzimmer
Room 9:	Ankleiden (delousing room)
Room 10:	Wasch- und Wannenraum (bath with 24 showers)
Room 11:	Reinigungsraum
Rooms 12, 13:	Elfenbeinraum

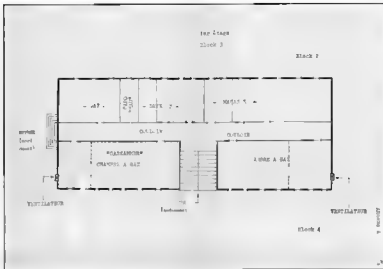
Graph service:
Waffen- und Kriegsmaterialwirtschaften

II - THE TWO DELOUSING ROOMS ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF BLOCK 3

Two clothing decontaminating gas chambers operated in the main camp or the first floor of Block 3 in 1941-42. The photographs show what still remains of the internal (Photos 1 to 4) and external (Photos 5, 6, 7 to 10) equipment of this installation, comprising two gas chambers separated by the south-west access staircase of Block 3 (Document 3). Two big rooms were converted into gas chambers by simply putting an extractor fan in each room. Neither the access doors (two for each room) nor the double windows were made gas tight. Gas-tightness was achieved by sticking strips of paper over the gaps.

The plan (Document 3) of the first floor of Block three was annexed to the deposition (Document 4) of an eyewitness, Andrzej Rubin, who worked in these gas chambers. [His deposition as presented here was translated from Polish to French by the author, with the help of the activist. It is not a literal translation, but each detail has been carefully verified.]

The drawing and account provide important information. The show that an ordinary room can easily be transformed into a gas chamber by simply installing an extractor fan, the safety regulations being reduced to their absolute minimum, the wearing of gas mask by the operators. It may appear surprising that the witnesses did not wear any clothes, this being highly dangerous in an atmosphere containing 2% by volume of hydrocyanic acid, since a subject exposed to such a concentration of the gas can lose consciousness after less minutes by asphyxiation through the skin, even when wearing a gas mask. However, about 5 l/kg cans of Zyklon-B would be necessary in ONE of the gas chambers in Block 3, to achieve this concentration (24g/m³). The witness does not specify the number of cans used, but states that while chased, the boxes and the can of Zyklon-B were put inside in the adjacent. In normal decontamination, a hydrocyanic acid concentration by volume of approximately 0.1 to 0.05% is generally used, which in this particular case would mean only 200 or 500g of can of Zyklon-B without danger for the operator, even naked. The best proof that the witnesses were not subjected to very high concentrations of hydrocyanic acid - 2% per cent actually being lethal in 30 seconds if no mask is worn - is that he was still alive in 1961 and was able to give this account.



Document 3

Translation of inscriptions on the plan:

- for stage/2nd floor
- ENTREE (back-door)/Entrance entrance
- VENTILATEUR/Extractor fan
- GASZON
- CAPO MAU
- DETENU/Prisoners
- MAGASIN/Store
- COULOIR/Corridor
- CHAMBRE A GAZ/gas chamber
- CHAMBRE A GAZ/gas chamber
- ENTREE (back-door)/Entrance entrance

Document 4:
Deposition made on 2nd February 1961 by Andrzej Rubin, born 14 January 1919 in Cracow. Prisoner number 14110

... In these rooms there were wooden frames with hooks on which we hung the clothes. The windows were sealed by strips of paper along the joints, as was the ventilator. We received the Zyklon-B from Capo Mau, a German, who was the only one to have the key of the store. Besides, another prisoner and I did the gassing. We put on our gas masks and went in the south hallway or wearing underpants. We did that because of the lice. There were very many lice in the clothes. Sometimes, filling the gas chamber with clothes took as much as two days. The lice fell on the floor and formed a layer about 50cm across under the clothes. When we went in to spread the gas, the lice jumped on us and the layers disappeared very fast. The cars were opened with a kind of chisel with a ring of teeth that we hit with a hammer. It produced a ring of holes in the cars. Since we were afraid of being bitten by the lice, we put the chisel, the hammer and the can of Zyklon-B ready in advance opened it quickly and threw the substance on the floor. Despite the speed of the operation the lice jumped on our legs and to protect ourselves we spread a little Zyklon-B around our feet immediately. I could feel the lice drop off, dead. Sometimes at the moment when the gas evaporated, I tried to feel it by handling the crystals. They felt like water and were cool and damp. After throwing the crystals we went out, closed the door and stuck strips of paper over the gaps.

Twenty-four hours later we put our gas masks on again, the extractor fans were dangerous and we opened the windows. The ventilation continued for two hours. The gas was very dangerous for us. Before we closed the door and sealed it with strips of paper, a little of the gas would escape into the corridor. Apart from us two who were protected by gas masks, the rest did not have any and the entire floor was affected by gas.

Once I was slightly gassed because the door I was wearing was not fully gas-tight. I felt nothing at the time but two hours afterwards I had a bad headache, a pain in the chest and a burning pain in the lungs. At first I did not go to the KB (Frankfurt hospital block) but went out of the block into the back alley between Block 3 and the protective wall of the Stammlager to breathe deeply while doing some knee bends. The headache went away fairly quickly but when I coughed a little blood came up. Doctor Wankowski, diagnosed inflammation and dehydration of the throat. After being hospitalized, I was cured in two months. *



Photo 5. (Photo by the author.)

The northwest entrance to Block 3. On the first floor on the right is one of the gas chambers, the ventilation opening of which can be seen.

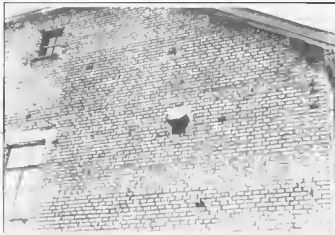


Photo 6. (Photo by the author.)

The outside of the ventilator with its cover. The hydrocyanic gas was expelled to the outside air of the camp without any particular precautions being taken.

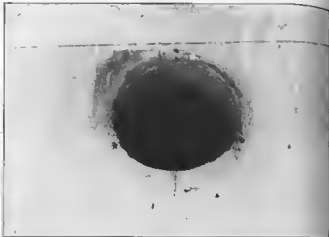
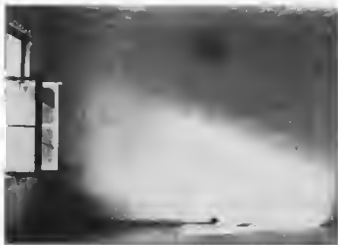


Photo 7. (Photo by the author.)

Interior view of the ventilation hole. The exhaust fan has been removed and there only remain the three bolts that held the electric motor.



Photos 8 and 9.

South-east part of one of the double-window gas chambers on the first floor of Block 5. On the right the entrance door; on the corner, the hole where the exhaust fan was; on the left, one of the double windows.

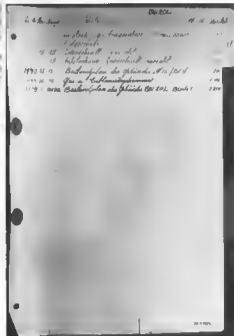


Photos 10 and 11

The southeast side of Block I seen from the back alley, showing the ventilation hole of the second gas chamber



Document 12 (P415 for 1/4 page 17)



Translation: (Document 12)

Column headings

- Za. Notierung number
- Hausnummer II
- Messstelle
- A.1 Schutzhaftlager - Gebäude No. 15-16, Block 1, BW 20
- L/A.1 preventive detention camp - building No. 15-16
- Block 1, BW 20 L
- Messstab/scale

Entries

- Aufstockung Erdgeschoss-Obergeschoss/Additional storey, ground floor, upper floor
- Erdgeschoss/ground floor
- Querschnitt Ausschnitt/section elevation
- Aufstockung, Querschnitt, Ansicht/Additional storey, cross section, elevation
- Bestandsplan des Gebäudes N 15 (Block 1)/Inventory drawing of building No. 15 (Block 1)
- GAS U. ENTLAUSUNGSKAMMER/gas and defecation chamber
- Bestandsplan des Gebäudes BW 20, Block 1/Inventory drawing of building BW 20, Block 1

III - THE DEFOUSING GAS CHAMBER IN BLOCK I

On the ground of the western corner of Block I (Photos 14, 15 and 16) there was a defousing gas chamber. The Bauleitung gave the number 889 to its modification drawing ('Gas and defousing chamber') in Block I (Document 12), a number that dates the project at about 15-20 August 1942, in the midst of a typhus epidemic. [cf the diary of Johann-Karl Kremer, reservist doctor, note of 20/8/42], probably as an additional device means to defouse effects using Zyklon-B. The transformation was carried out in very primitive fashion by bricking in the existing windows, but the date on which this was done is not known. With a volume of 65 to 70 m³ (approximately 5.5m long, 3.25m wide and 3.8m high, 2000 cubic m of Zyklon-B were more than enough to eliminate the lice in 2 to 6 hours (recommended concentration, 5g/m³). The only remaining opening, a small fanlight, was installed to permit natural ventilation once the door was open. It would appear that the present gas-tight door (Photos 16, 17 and 18) with which the gas chamber is fitted was

not installed until June 1943. Before this there was another door, not gas-tight, and considerably higher (Photo 19). On 28th May 1943 Order 459 (Document 11) issued by the SS-Administration (Section -V4-, also responsible for the Krematorium) was sent to the DAW metal-working shop requesting the fabrication of a gas-tight door for the disinfection chamber in the Stammlager. Only the gas chamber of Block I has such a door, which however appears to prove that Order 459 was for this chamber. However, there is a contradiction between the terms of this Order, which requests a gas-tight door for a gas chamber (hence using Zyklon B) but destined for a disinfection chamber (using hot air). This contradiction is only apparent, for it seems that subsequently hydrocyanic acid defousing was abandoned in favour of hot air, supplied by a boiler installed in the yard between Blocks 1 and 2. This modification would explain the juxtaposition of the terms 'Gaskammer' and 'Entwesungskammer' for the same room.



Durantent DZ 1a Volume 11 of the Hinc trial, annex 15. Schmeerer/
metal working shop file page 93, there there is the following order:

28.5.43. Nr. 459 Entwesungskammer K.L.
Auschwitz. Przedmiot: 1/Die Beschläge zu 1
Tür mit Rahmen, luftdicht mit Sporn für Gas-
kammer, 2/1 Latenröhre - Capo Kuhne weiss
beschied. Bestellschein Nr. 158/2 u. 2a der
Verwaltung V 4 vom 25.1.43. Wykonawcy:
Minek Ukonzono 10.6.43

Translation:

28.5.43. No. 459 Desinestation chamber, Auschwitz
concentration camp

- Subject: 1 Door fittings for one door with frame, air-
tight, with peephole for gas chamber,
2 One latrine door - Capo Kuhne knows about
this

Order form No 158/2 and 2a of administration V 4 of 25/1/43
Executed by: Minek Completed: 10/6/43



Photos 14 and 15:

The delousing gas chamber on the ground floor in the western corner of Block I



Photo 16



Photo 17



Photo 18

Photos 16, 17 and 18:

Gas-tight door of the gas chamber, of conventional design (made by the DAW) with its peephole and two locking bars, each of which fitted into a metal rod, through which a threaded rod, bent to form a handle, was screwed, completely blocking the latch and ensuring that the door was tightly closed.

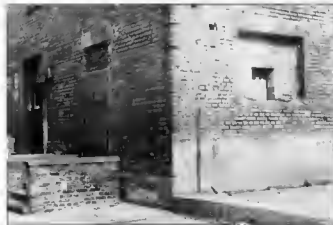


Photo 19

Close up of the exterior of the gas chamber and the fanlight used to assist natural ventilation.

THE PRUSSIC ACID DELOUSING INSTALLATION IN THE STAMMLAGER RECEPTION BUILDING

Worksite 160 represents the second phase of the sanitary arrangements planned to meet the extension of the main camp whose capacity was to be increased to 30,000 prisoners (Drawing 1). The «somnary» installations being a matter of urgency, the first things to be planned at the end of 1941 were the Krimatorium, then a complex comprising a laundry building with another containing a reception area, a delousing block and a shower area (Drawing 2). The reception building with its delousing installation and showers for the prisoners operated as follows:

The north wing (on the right) houses a «rapid» circuit for prisoners already registered, enabling them to take a shower under the surveillance of the SS who watched them undressing, showering and leaving (this was the arrangement on drawing 918 (Drawing 3), but on drawing 1361 (Drawing 3), the surveillance room has become that where the towels are issued). The prisoners followed the path indicated by the arrows on drawing 918.

The central aisle contains a more extensive circuit with a separate entrance. This is for newcomers selected for KL Auschwitz. Here they were registered, tattooed, stripped of their clothes and personal effects, underwent a medical examination, showered, dried themselves and either received civilian clothes (their own) which had meanwhile been deloused or the striped prison uniform when this was available.

It was essential that the delousing of clothing, connected with the «extended» circuit should be completed within a reasonable time, that is within a few hours not 24 or 48 hours as was the case with the two gas chambers in Block 3. The destruction of fleas, bugs and cockroaches requires a minimum contact time of only two hours with a hydrocyanic acid concentration of 5g/m³. To achieve this concentration in the 10m³ gas chambers of the reception building, 50g of HCN was enough. A 200g can of Zyclon-B was used for four gas chambers, 1kg of Zyclon-B for the entire installation permitted effective delousing in two hours, a period compatible with the length of the «extended» circuit. Furthermore, if the wait became too long or if there were too

many new arrivals, there was in the basement of the right wing (under the «rapid» circuit) a waiting room called «Wartezimmer für Zugänge» (Waiting room for arrivals), strictly separated from the other installations (and visible on drawing 1391 (Drawing 4)).

A delousing period of two hours for even less if the HCN concentration was increased) required thorough ventilation of the installation after use. The fact that it was housed in a well-ventilated part of the building in direct contact with the outside air, indicates that a certain natural ventilation was necessary for safety of operation, in addition to the obligatory forced ventilation.

Unfortunately, no technical document on the operation of these gas chambers survives. The BOOS firm was the consultant and supplied the basic drawings, which have never been found.

On the basement drawing 1391 (Drawing 4), a 50cm x 70cm channel runs under each row of gas chambers, just below the breaks in the walls shown in some of the chambers, certainly linking them together. The two channels could be part of a forced draught ventilation system.

The block of 19 gas chambers, a little too close to the reception building, was separated from it in June 1942 on drawing 1361 (Drawing 4).

On ground floor plan of drawing 1361, there is perpendicular to the tenth gas chamber (Photo 3), a staircase leading to a loft in the roof space and logically formed of a floor resting on the mesh of steel rods (from 2 to 4cm diameter) above the gas chambers (Photo 7). If there was any other equipment connected with the gas chambers (such as ventilation fan motors, and perhaps tubes for injecting Zyclon-B, etc.) it was probably located on this floor.

The existence of a loft would explain the reason for the ten skylights which were there to illuminate this space and which would

have been superfluous and simply of esthetic value if the loft were not used (Photos 8, 9 and 14).

The present state of the premises makes it impossible to reconstruct the techniques employed. All the openings between the supporting pillars and the arches have been bricked in, with windows being installed in the centre. Big double or sliding doors in the middle of the four sides give access. The two wings communicating with the reception building have been demolished and the roof accordingly rebuilt. In the interior, the two rows of gas chambers, 19 in all, the stairway and the floor of the loft no longer exist. The floor has been covered with concrete, destroying any traces of the original arrangement. The present building is used to house various stores used for the general maintenance of the Auschwitz Museum. While the aerial photographs prove that the installation was still operating at the end of 1944, we do not know by whom or why these changes were made, making it possible to recover 38 gas-tight doors.

It should be noted that the delousing gas chambers planned for the Maidanek camp (KL Lublin), the «Gaschamern für Ventox in Zyclon-B-Blausäure/Gas chambers for Ventox and Zyclon-prussic acid», but never built, were to be on the same principle of constructing a line of small cell-like rooms side by side (those for Ventox being bigger). This rule also applied at Birkenau in the arrangement of Block 2 as gas chambers, the already modest floor area (7m x 15m = 105m²) being divided into four cells alongside one another but all of different sizes.

The complete building with its three wings, i.e. baths, reception and laundry, was started in the autumn of 1942 and finished mid April/May 1944.

Translation of Inscriptions: (Drawing 1)

Angelehrt Bebau, den 19/II/1942/Drawn in Berlin, 19th February 1942
 Wirtschafts-Verwaltungsbauplan/SS Economic Administration Head Office
 Amt C/I (SS-Stammbauführer/C/I Office (SS major))

(the black buildings exist, those in grey are planned)

Wien-Krakau/Vienna-Cracow

Metallwerk/rolling mill

- Zivilarbeiter-Unterkunft/civilian workers' accommodation
- Wohnhaus/house
- Führerheim/hauset for chiefs (for SS officers)

Deutsche Ausrüstungs-Werke/German equipment works (DAW)

- Zimmererei/carpentry shop
- Lagerplatz/storage area
- Zimmerplatz/carpenters' yard
- Langholz/unsawn timber
- Sägemühle/saw mill
- Schnittholz/sawn timber

Feinholzwerk/distinct heating plant

- Kohlen/coal
- Abraum/ash
- Pumpenhaus/pump house
- Kesselhaus/boiler house
- Pföflein/catecheter

Wasser-versorgungs-anlage/water supply plant

- Pumpenanlage/pumping installation
- Maschinenanlage/machinery
- Wassertürme/water towers
- Brunnen 2/wells 2

Gleisanschluss zur Reichsbahn/private rail siding attached to the Reichsbahn

- Heuschuppen/hay barn
- Kartoffelbänke/potato store

Kommandantent/camp headquarters

- Fahrer-Unterkunft/senior staff quarters
- Kommandanten-Unterkunft/staff quarters
- Tankstelle/gasol station
- Fahrzeughallen/garages

Konzentrationslager/concentration camp

- Appellplatz im 30000 Häftling/assembly ground for 30000 prisoners
- Fläche 31000qm/area 31000m²
- Zellen-Gebäude/cell building
- Häftlings-Kranken/patients' hospital
- Kranken-Gebäude/curatorium building
- Werkstätten/workshops
- Effektenkammer/effects store
- Effekten/effects
- Lagerereingang/camp entrance
- Häftl. Bad/prisoners' baths
- Zugang-Gebäude/reception building
- Entlausung/delousing
- Gewascherei/main laundry
- Häftl. Küche/prisoners' kitchen
- Altes Krematorium/old Crematorium (Kr II)
- Krematorium
- Wohnung Kommandant/commandant's dwelling

Kasernenbereich/barrack area

- Mannschaftshäuser/roops' barracks
- Wirtsh. Gebäude/domestic offices
- Garagen/garages
- Bauleitung/construction management
- Provisorischer Kindergarten/temporary kindergarten

Neue Solabücke/new bridge over the Sola

Sola-Fluss/river Sola

Drawing 1:

DI VEH IMPANI NT PLAN OF THE STAMMLAGER OR MAIN CAMP OF KL
ANAL (WJEF
General plan of KL Auschwitz (Stammlagerplan) original 19th February 1942,
drawn by Maier (FMO key on 20/11/42)



This overall plan concretises the orders given on 1st March 1941 by RFSS (Himmler) to camp Commandant Höss. It shows, at the beginning of 1942, the development planned for KL (concentration camp) Auschwitz, raising the number of prisoners to 30 000 (the KGL, prisoner of war camp at Birkenau being originally planned strictly for receiving 100 000, then 200 000 Russian POWs). The accent was on setting up industrial plants (whether belonging to the SS or not) able to take advantage of the cheap labour provided by the prisoners. A minor part of these 'useful' plans (workshops, dwellings and sanitary and other installations for the prisoners) were in fact realised. The 'prestige' construction plans, such as the new camp headquarters, remained in the planning stage. The exploitation of the prisoners, making them work on very low returns, together with an increase in their numbers to 30 000, resulted in the planning of a new Krematorium extending the line of the old one in a south-easterly direction. A number of drawings were produced in connection with this plan for a new Krematorium (probably drawings 970, 871 and 875 (building with an external chimney attached to the central wing, as shown on the drawings of 19/2/42 and on 32/30 of 2/11/43) and certainly drawings 932 to 938 and 980, in statement based on the orientation of the elevations on drawings 937 and 938 (the last Krematorium project, slightly different from the first, was to later become the definitive plan with a chimney emerging directly from the annex wing). This 'normal' Krematorium was never actually built in the main camp, but the work that went into the drawings of the 930 series was not wasted and made it possible to proceed directly to the construction of Krematorium II, under the designation of BW 30, at KGL, Birkenau and to produce a mirror-image version, BW 30a or Krematorium III.

ENTWURF FÜR AUFNAHMEGEBAUDE MIT
ENTLAUSS/INGSANLAGE U. HAFTLINGSBAD.

001/1/142

Drawing 2
Preliminary drawing 018

ENTWURF FÜR AUFNAHMEGEBAUDE MIT
ENTLAUSS/INGSANLAGE U. HAFTLINGSBAD
Project for reception building with a delousing installation and
prisoners' baths.

«AUFNAHMEGEBAUDE, 1. RDEGEFSCHOSSE» *reception building*
(BW 100), ground floor, Drawing 916, scale 1:100 drawn by W. UHL
(ZAV civilian engineer, draughtsman) on 9/1/41, checked by
Walter DEJACO on 6/1/42 and approved by RISSCHOFF on 8/1/42.

The civilian draftsman who made this drawing worked in the
Drawing Office under Untersammelführer Dejnau. His particular style of
producing drawings and keys is practically identical, to the point of
confusion, with that of SS Untersammelführer Ulmer who also worked in
the Bauleitung Drawing Office. Ulmer was probably sent from Berlin to
Auschwitz to work as a draughtsman and architect and was then
posted in a combat unit as from February 1943. It is he who drew the
930 series «Krematorium project» drawings. The reception building
comprises two wings in which there are two distinct circuits for
operations.

Drawing 1
Mastering drawing 1961

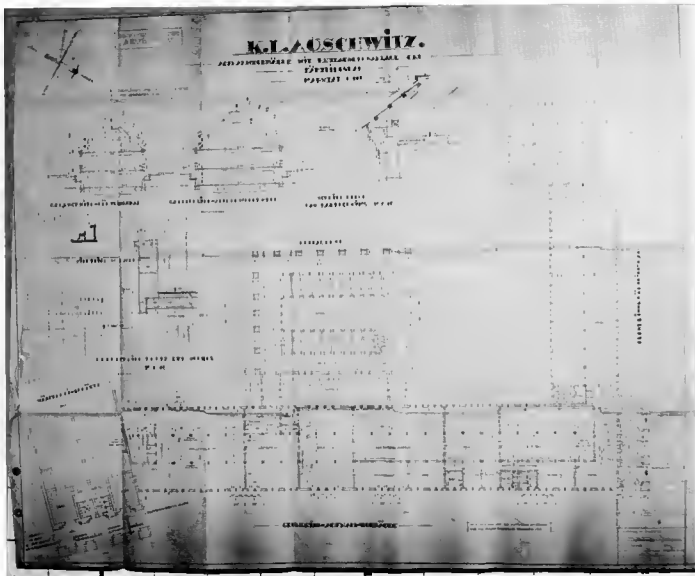
AUFNAHMEGEBAUDE MIT ENTLAUSUNGSANLAGE UND
HÄFTLINGSBAD
Reception building with delousing installation and prisoners'
baths (BW 160)

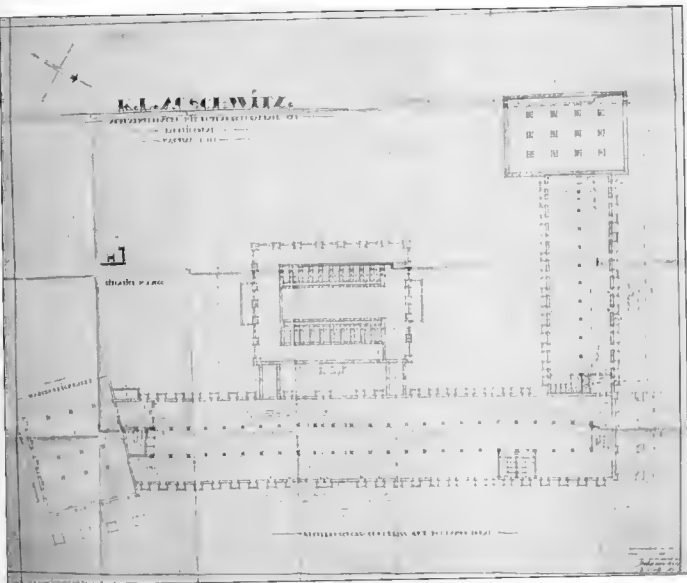
Drawing 1361, scales: 1:10, 1:100 and 1:2 000.
Drawn by prisoner 538,
checked by WERKMANN (civilian architect from Berlin)

Translation of inscriptions

(from top to bottom and left to right)

- Querschnitt-Häftlingsbad/cross section of prisoners'
baths
- Querschnitt-Aufnahmegebäude/cross section reception
building
- Schnitt durch das Hauptgebäude/cross section of the main
corridor 11:100
- Situation/situation, 1:2 000
- Entlausung/delousing
- Grundriss-Häftlingsbad/plan of the prisoners' baths
- Querschnitt durch den Sockel/cross section through the base
- Wäscherei-Gebäude/laundry building
- Grundriss-Aufnahmegebäude/plan of the reception
building





Drawing 4. Backlotting drawing 1391

AUFNAHMEGEBAUDE MIT ENTLAUSUNGSANLAGE UND HAFTLINGSBAD MASSSTAB 1:100

Aufnahmegebäude-keller/reception building basement

Drawing 1391, scale 1:100

Drawn by person 538 and checked by Werkmann on 19/6/42, approved by Bruchhoff 20/6/42.

Translation of the inscriptions:

- Situation/situation, 1:2 000
- Wäscherei-gebäude/laundry building
- Kellerebene-Grundriss und Fundamentplan/
basement plan and foundations

In the right wing.

- Warte-raum für die Zugänge/waiting room for new arrivals

In the central wing

Flickraum/mending room

Photo 5
[PMO neg. no. 2095-110]

In the middle ground to the south side of the building showing the 17 delousing gas chambers under construction in the winter of 1942/43. In the foreground the foundations of the main laundry. (Photo taken from Block 26 of the main camp.)



Photo 6
[PMO neg. no. 2095-112]

In the middle ground in the north side of the delousing installation, showing its position between the north wing housing the beds, the central section for reception and the south wing housing the laundry which is under construction. (Photo taken from Block 26 of the main camp.)



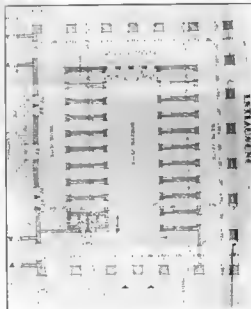
Photo 7:

Detail of drawing 1361 showing the position of the photographer (P) for Photo 7. The term 'Blaunerei' (delousing) appears in delousing installation; no longer appears on the final drawings 1361 and 1395. However, there is no doubt about the identity of the agent used.



Photo 7
[PMO neg. no. 2095-111]

Interior view of the delousing installation with the rows of openings on the right side of the 1st chamber, spring/summer 1943. The steel frame work at a height of 1.50m is perfectly visible. The workers' external wall with four windows, separating the soot- and dirty sides in smoke extraction.



Translation of inscriptions:

- Entläunung/delousing
 - Reine Seite/clean side
 - Treppe siehe Detail/staircase, see detail
 - Unreine Seite/dirty side
 - Siehe Detail/see detail
 - Luchthof/central courtyard
- Not visible:
- Fluß/corridor
 - Bäume/showers
 - Aufseher/surveillance

The presence of a staircase going up towards the roof space would explain the purpose of the steel frame, which would have supported a floor carrying the equipment necessary for the functioning of the gas chambers. As compared with drawing 916, where the delousing installation was a direct extension of the reception building, drawing 1361 shows it to be separated from it by a distance of 6 meters, access being by two corridors (one clean and one dirty). The SS bathroom and the place from which they monitored the operations (showers of arrivals) are only 10 to 15 meters from the gas chambers.

Photo 9
[PMO neg. no 10995121]

West and south sides of the building housing the 19 gas chambers at the time of its completion, spring/summer 1943



Translation of inscription:

Raum: Sotafellan side
Dachmittell: ca. 2.50m hoch/taal
grd approx. 2.50 meters high
Gefälle: 5cm/5cm slope
Blumen: Entlausungsanlage
provis and delousing installation
Uebst: Saisittely side
Kammer/chambers (from 1 to 19)
Sotakalhana
Siehe Detail der Pa BOGS/see
detail drawing by Maxen Boos
Vorraum/entrance room
Ankleideraum/dressing room
Waschraum the SS M./bathroom for SS
personal

This drawing shows that the SS were not afraid to address and shows THREE meters from gas chambers using hydrocyanic acid (H₂ Zyklon-B). The delousing building is shown directly attached to the reception building, without communicating corridors, as on the KL Auschwitz general plan of 19/2/1942

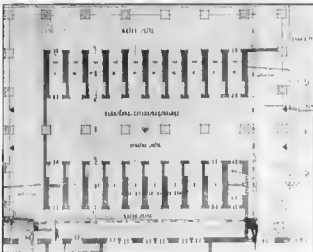


Photo 12:

Detail of drawing 9/16 showing the location of the 19 delousing gas chambers each with a volume of 10.00 cubic meters.

Photo 10
[PMO neg. no 10995122]

View of the south side, with on the right the reform corridor leading to the reception building



Photo 11
[PMO neg. no 2069121]

View of the south and east sides and roof of the delousing building and the corridors connecting it with the reception building (left) in the north, (right) the south. The skylights on the roof would be only for an architectural embellishment unless they were to illuminate a lift to the roof space



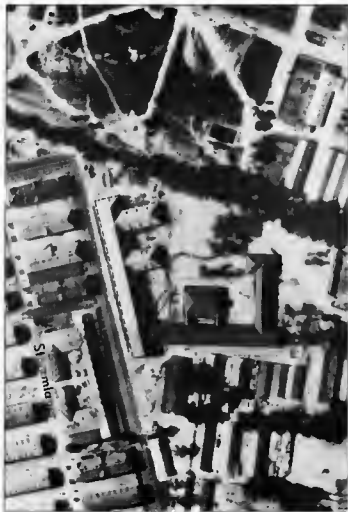


Photo 13:
Detail of an aerial photograph of the main camp taken on 25th August 1944



Photo 14: Enregistrement, Auschwitz I, le 25 août 1944

registration building bâtiment d'enregistrement
prisoners for registration prisonniers qui vont être enregistrés

Indices photographiques : A Auschwitz I, nous trouvons l'autre partie du drame, ceux envoyés « à droite », se déroulant à Birkenau (photo 5). Devant le bâtiment d'enregistrement du camp principal, une longue file de prisonniers est visible. C'était indiscutablement le groupe qui devait échapper à la mort dans les chambres à gaz, pour être condamnés à une mort-vivante dans un détachement de travail S.S. Ils sont là, pétrifiés pour l'éternité, attendant d'être tatoués et affectés au travail.

Photo 14:

Translation of the commentary on the photograph from «LE MONDE JUIF»:

PHOTO 5. REGISTRATION, AUSCHWITZ I,
25th August 1944

Photographer's evidence: at Auschwitz I, we find the other part of tragedy, those sent « to the right », taking place at Birkenau (photo 5). Before the registration building of the main camp, a long line of prisoners can be seen. It was undoubtedly the group who were to escape death in the gas chambers to be condemned to a living death in an SS labour detachment. There they are, frozen for all eternity waiting to be tattooed and detached off for work.

LE MONDE JUIF

On the aerial photograph, the different parts of the reception building (*torques* and *extension*) (*torques*, *gas chambers*) are outlined with a solid line, the big laundry with a dotted line

Presented in the 97th issue of the CDJC («Le Monde Juif», January-March 1980, «Auschwitz: à quel état?» in bird's eye view of Auschwitz), the photograph (Photo 14) has been interpreted incorrectly. The entrance to the reception building for new arrivals selected to fit for work is located at point «E» (complete photo). The line of prisoners in the yard is entering at «C», i.e. one of the entrances to the laundry. The prisoners - already registered - are most probably waiting to hand in their clothes for washing and receive clean ones.

This error by the authors, Brugion and Pomer, shows the extreme care that must be taken in interpreting the evidence and demonstrates that a global knowledge (written archives, photographs, original drawings, present state of the premises, eyewitness accounts) is almost essential before any explanation can be put forward.

The studies presented - among others - by the «revisionists» are no exception to this rule, and a lack of respect for it has led them into serious error. Through establishing certain precise points - often unknown to the general public - they imagined that they had been able to disprove the existence of «holocaustic» gas chambers by rejecting any other document negating their thesis and ignoring all the remaining documentation containing many traces confirming this reality. A further aggravating circumstance is that once they have accepted something as fact, this becomes established and irrevocable. My own experience has taught me to be prepared to revise my initial interpretations which were often incorrect and sometimes even quite wrong, because I lacked this «global view». There were and are still some Polish historians who possess this knowledge, but it has never been fully exploited due to material or intellectual constraints, deliberate or otherwise.

KANADA I AND ITS CLOTHING DELOUSING INSTALLATION

with a presentation of various gas-tight doors

The study of «Kanada I» [Document 1 and 2] and its delousing gas chamber(s) using Zyclon-B is essential for several reasons. From the standpoint of the prisoners, it was the only place in the camp where a «normal» life was maintained despite the imprisonment, ensuring regular food for those who worked there (taken from what the gassed victims had brought with them) and decent clothing (from the same source). It is here that women and men had contact and «love stories» could develop, evoked in Andrzej Munk's film «La Passagère» (1964), or the Rudolf Vorn's book «Je me suis évadé d'Auschwitz» (1988 for the French version).

With its «decent» male and female prisoners, Kanada I could be photographed without fear by the SS. Ten photos from the «Album d'Auschwitz» [Photos 7 to 16] show the activities of sorting the victims' effects in this complex.

For the historian the essential part of Kanada I is its Zyclon-B delousing gas chamber(s) which operated permanently from 1942 to 1944 [Photos 7, 9 and 16]. A former prisoner, Josef Odil, explains how the operation was carried out.

Deposition made on 25th August 1943 by Josef Odil, born 15th August 1922 at Brzeziny Stabke registered number 61815, now living at Owsewim, ul. Wierzymska 20.
Arrested on 20th April 1942 and prisoner at Auschwitz-Birkenau on 22nd August 1942

Josef Odil worked in the Kanada I compound in the spring of 1944. His deposition concerns only 1944. He had already furnished other information on the subject recorded in the PMO archive as part of the «assimilation», volume 33, pages 112-115 and volume 51, pages 119-134

Entwesungskommando/Kanada

«I was working in the Entwesungskommando Kanada (Kanada delousing installation) kommando. should be called «Entwesungskommando delousing kommando» because «delousing» was done in one or two Zyclon-B gas chamber(s) near the Bathing Building (male and female). There I deloused the effects of people who had been killed. Fur and valuable objects that could

not be deloused by steam were deloused using Zyclon-B, the same method that was used in the gas chamber(s) to kill men. In our Kommando there were about fifteen prisoners. We used this method in gas chambers specially set up for delousing. They had one or two entrance doors and a few extractor fans. This delousing was organized as follows: off the furs and valuable objects to be deloused were hung up. As soon as the one done we covered the floor. Two prisoners put on gas masks and then went into the middle of the chamber with cans of Zyclon-B. One prisoner stood near the entrance and watched to see that the two prisoners in the middle of the room didn't poison themselves. Using special chests, the two men opened the cans at Zyclon-B poured it on the floor and withdrew rapidly, closing the gas tight doors behind them. One hour later, they opened the doors and the extractor fans were switched on. The used Zyclon-B was collected by us and put back in the original cans and cases. We took these cases at the Theatergebäude (Theatre building) to be sent to back to the gas manufacturer.

Our group here prepared the Zyclon-B for the gas chambers. We transported four or five wooden cases from the Theatergebäude in Kanada. When the cases were ready, a vehicle from the Health Service arrived and the cases were loaded in it. There were 40 or 50 cases in each case, so about 2000 cans in all.

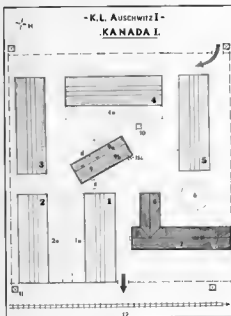
[A literal translation from the Polish, this testimony is not really «good». It was too late, 1963, and though the witness remembered what he had experienced, certain details of the environment escape him (underlined with dashes). On the other hand, certain other details (full underlining) are excellent.]

At the liberation of the camp none of the homicidal gas chamber remained in their original state, they had been dismantled, dynamited or transformed. The only intact gas chamber(s) were in Kanada I [Photo 11a-13]. The Soviet film «Chronicles of the liberation of the camp, 1945» shows a gas-tight door belonging to one of these gas chamber(s) [Photos 14 and 15]. The cans of Zyclon-B discovered in Kanada I had been used there for delousing purposes [Photos 16 and 17]. Not one of them was full. Also found was a box containing a chemical reagent used to check for the presence of hydrocyanic gas, a box to which the Soviets wrongly attributed a criminal use [Photo 18].

Since the homicidal and delousing gas chambers using Zyclon-B had been installed and equipped according to the same principle, they had identical gas-tight doors fabricated in the same workshops, the

Auschwitz DAW woodworking and metalworking shops [Photos 28 to 31]. Confusion was inevitable, since at this time it was not known how to distinguish between the two types of gas chamber. Photos taken after the war [Photos 19 to 27] and before the remains of the Kanada I delousing installation were demolished make it possible to see that the two types of gas chamber were equipped in exactly the same way. The only difference is in the gas-tight doors: there is a hemispherical grid protecting the periphery on the interior of the doors of homicidal gas chambers, a protection not fitted on the doors of delousing chambers.

Document 5:
(Translation of a note of 8th July 1982 sent to the author by the PMO Archive, Mr Tadeusz PASZKO)



Key to the plan of Kanada I

[The huts have been numbered (1 to 12) but the witness is not certain to which huts the numbers refer. (The photos of Kanada I contained in the Auschwitz Album confirm this numbering).]

1, 2: Wooden huts [1 and 2] of the Pfierdestallställe type where the deloused linen and clothing was stored. Here the effects were cleaned, mended and patched and subsequently transported to a brick building (7 on the drawing).

- 3a, 2c: Awnings extending the roof of the huts to protect the clean (deloused) linen
- 3: Wooden hut [3] of the stable type containing linen and deloused clothes.
- 4: Hut [4] of the stable type. This contained awnings and bags whose contents were to go to the delousing chamber
- 4a: Wooden awning running the length of the sorting hut [4]. There was also a temporary shower installation for the prisoners who sorted the baggage. (Another aerial photograph seems to show that the awning was not on the east side of hut 4 but on the southern part of the west side).
- 5: Wooden hut [5] of the stable type used for sorting the contents of the baggage. Any valuable objects found during sorting were put in a special chest, the «Wertkiste».
- 6: Temporary baggage store.
- 7: Brick building with a pitched roof, used as a store, with shavings inside to hold the deloused clothing. This is where parcels were prepared for subsequent dispatch by rail to the Reich (Germany).
- 8: Brick building occupied by the Kanada I SS Kommando/ulster and other SS employed in Kanada I.
- 9: Brick house, which had been inhabited by a Polish family who were evicted, converted for delousing. Inside tubular frames had been erected for hanging clothes to be deloused using Zyclon-B gas.
- 9a: Room next to the delousing chamber where medicines and garments were kept. Some of the medicines were subsequently sent in the hospital, Block 26 of KL Auschwitz I.
- 9b: Room used to store gas masks, cans of Zyclon-B and the tools for opening them (cold chisel with a toothed head). The cans of Zyclon-B stacked here came from the «Theatergebäude» main store, carried on a two-wheeled hand cart [Photo 2].
- 9c: Place in front of the delousing chamber building where the deloused clothes were brought out.
- 9d: Roof under which objects were kept.
- 10: Brick latrines for the prisoners working in Kanada I.
- 11: Probable location of the wooden watch tower for the surveillance of Kanada I.
- 12: Railway by which the wagons to be loaded with recovered, deloused and prepared goods arrived. The trains subsequently went in the Reich.

Drawing of Kanada I by J.C. Prieux, based on that by T. Paszko and aerial photographs.



Document 2

Aerial photograph taken by American soldiers in late August or early September 1944 (PHOT/ny, no. 10974)

Translation of inscriptions:

Nord/North
Hauptbahnhof/Auschwitz main station
Auschwitz Stammlager/Main camp
La Sola/River Sola
Neue Brücke/New bridge

Photo 3
(No. 175 in
ed. *Album d'Amateurs*
by S. Klarfeld)

The ants all of trucks loaded
with objects. They will be
entailed around the only
post fitted with a lamp for
night work. This post is in
front of the south side of
lot 5.



Photo 5
(No. 187 in
ed. *Album d'Amateurs*
by S. Klarfeld)

On the left, the 4 on the right
lot 5. In the yard behind
building 164 that covering
the gas chamber outside objects are being
sorted.



Photo 4
(No. 182 in
ed. *Album d'Amateurs*
by S. Klarfeld)

Unloading of effects and in-
stall rough sorting under the
watchtowers of the SS. 130th
lot 5 in the background
the brick dispatch road
drag 171



Photo 6
(No. 190 in
ed. *Album d'Amateurs*
by S. Klarfeld)

Sorting debris (seen at the
end of the yard between lots 1
and 2) in the night. Just below
the roof of lot 5, wooden
blocks that supported the aw-
ning that was over them
behind the photographer and
shooting on Photo 10 in the
middle of lot 1 and removed
the that of lot 2.





Photos 7 and 8

(Nos. 181 and 182 of *Album d'Auschwitz* by S. Klarfeld)

The previous luggage depot (6). These two photos were taken one after the other. Photo 8 shows the entrance to hut 5, on the background on the left, hut 4 and the nose of the truck in Photo 4. In the mid-ground of Photo 7, the brick building (7) with the number 184. On the extreme left the entrance to the dressing gas chamber, with the gas-tight door open. Above the ladder leaning against the wall is the (on one of the) prisoner tents for removing the hydrocyanic gas. To the side, most probably the tin water switches.

Photo 9

(No. 183 of *Album d'Auschwitz* by S. Klarfeld)

bleeding faces and clothing to be burned outside the gas chamber with the gas-tight door open. The ventilator is visible above the ladder.



Photo 10

(No. 178 of *Album d'Auschwitz* by S. Klarfeld)

The same scene a few moments later; the photographs being against the wall of building 184. In the background huts 1 and 2 with a lamp for night work on the end of hut 1.

Photo 11: [PMO neg no. 899]

Inside demolishing building 164, the store where empty Zyklon B cans were found (into 9a or 9b on the drawing). The state of the premises is observed by the Soviet Commission in 1945.



Photo 12: [PMO neg no. 899]

Inside building 164 in 1945. Probably the Zyklon B store. In fact it is impossible to exactly situate these photos in building 164 (9, 9a or 9b), because the building has since been demolished.



Photo 13: [PMO neg no. 899]

Northern side of building 164. From right to left, the main entrance door, two extractor fans and their coverings, and the gas tight door of the gas chamber. Since the building no longer exists, its interior arrangement will remain unknown, unless other photographs are found. We therefore do not know the dimensions of the gas chamber and are not even certain whether there were one or two gas chambers.





Photo 15: [PMS neg. no 627]

Close up of the porthole of the same gas-tight door

Photo 14: [Soviet Commission PM5 no reference]

The gas-tight door of the Kanada I delousing gas chamber. Its construction, by the DAW, is very rudimentary. It has a porthole, a handle to open it and two large one-man latches - with handles to close it, closing being completed by screwing a right angled bolt through each of the two metal catches into which the latches fit. This type of gas-tight door, with the same method of closing, was also used in the homicidal gas chambers.

Photos 14, 15, 16 and 17 have been deliberately grouped together, for the four of them shown together sum up in striking fashion homicidal gasings using Zyklon-B, as the Soviet Commission, the first to undertake investigations on the site in 1945, understood, prevented and published them. However, the score is a completely put up job. It has been common practice to show together a gas-tight door from a delousing gas chamber (having genuinely functioned as such) and an enlargement of its porthole, together with the delousing agent used, Zyklon-B. Dating from 1945, this particular presentation is supported by one or two testimonies affirming that a group of Sonderkommando men were gassed in this Kanada gas chamber. It is always stated that they were caught «*by surprise*», but even so, the episode, in the last quarter of 1944, remains dubious. The members of the Sonderkommando that the SS wanted to silence forever because they had seen too much, knew very well how to recognise a gas chamber, and from very far off. In this situation, they would not allow themselves to be shut in like a lot of sheep.

This «*hustoria*» montage is to be compared with that mentioned in the postface with reference to the Krematorium of K.L. Natzweiler in Alsace.



Photo 16: [Soviet Commission 1945 interview #1]

Before the gas light test of the deinfestation gas chamber, a low-ranking Russian officer and a civilian member of the International Commission in the company of two Soviet prisoners are presenting empty Zyklon-B cans found at building 16d.



Photo 18: [PMO neg. no. 773]

A Russian Second Lieutenant presenting for the camera that the Gm + Chromidex of the Liberation of the camp. 1941-2 is gas devices has, probably specific to hydro-cyanic acid. Behind him is the gas-right door of the Kommando gas chamber. On the right of the picture part of the face of the Russian officer visible on Photo 16.



Photo 17: [PMO neg. No. 625]

Enlarged view of four empty Zyklon-B cans, that had held 1.5kg of hydrocyanic acid, standing on their packing case.



Photo 19



Photo 20



Photo 21



Photo 22

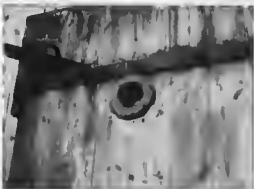


Photo 23



Photo 24



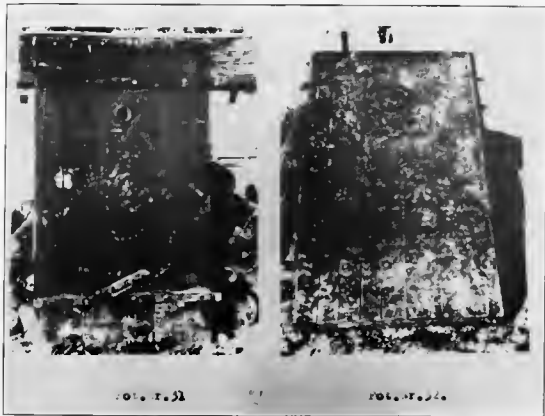
Photo 25



Photo 26



Photo 27



Photos 29[31] and 30[32]. (PWO neg. no. 205485)

These two photographs accompanying the report drawn up by Judge Jan Schara in volume 11 of the Hacostrat are the nature of the devices and avoidances, showing the exterior (31) and the interior (32) of a gas-tight door found in the Biala (place where construction materials for the Auschwitz camp were kept). The heavy hemispherical gas protecting the main of the pyrolytic makes it reasonable to conclude a homicidal use. It can be seen that there is no difference in either design or construction between the door at Photos 28 and that in Photo 29[31]. They are identical apart from the height of the pyrolytic with respect to the upper closing bar.

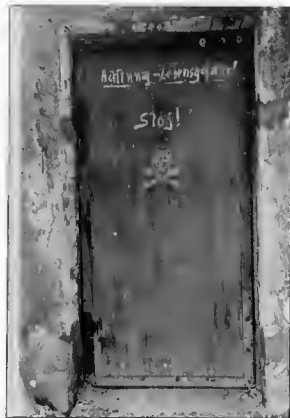


Photo 31: (Warren Criminal Commission Exhibit, page 14)

Photo of a gas chamber door taken in Oswiecim in 1945. German and Polish inscriptions: "Schwere Lebertypische 'Stoßkammer' Gänge - No entry". Location unknown. The inscriptions were made AFTER the liberation, for the door is condemned, the latch bars having been removed.

LOCATION OF BERKHAU DECONTAMINATION, DISINFESTATION AND
DISINFECTION INSTALLATIONS STUDIED IN CHAPTERS 5, 6 AND 7

Hand-drawn drawing 3764

General plan of KGL Berksau with its «sanitary» equipment: the decontamination, disinfection and disinfectant installations (in red); the sewage treatment plants (in yellow) and the four Krematoriumen (in black and grey).

LACHTEN DESKRIEBIGESFANGENLAGEPLAN

AUS WITZGOS

MASSSTAB 1:5000

General plan of the Auschwitz prisoner of war camp. Upper Silesia.

By drawing 3764 scale 1:5000.

Drawn by prisoner 63005 on 25/1/44.

checked by ZA (Zivill. Arbeiter) (Bau employee) Tschakert on

24/1/44

and approved the same day by SS Lieutenant Lehmann.

This was the basic drawing for the projected development of Berksau. With respect to the original, the following have been highlighted for this study:

- In black:** Krematoriumen II, III, IV and V.
- In red:** The positions of decontamination, disinfection and disinfectant installations known and planned: B.W. 50 and 51, the Zentral Sauna (the first was an underground installation) and the B.W. 100 (a temporary camp).
- In yellow:** The sewage treatment plants: Kläranlage I, Kläranlage II and the Provisorische Erdbecken at B.W. 100 (these last, provisional decontamination basins, dug in the ground, are very often wrongly taken to be crematoriums by inspectors). However, those associated with Block I were dug 500 Mm meters to the west of the Block I. This error of interpretation is noted above all in German works on KL Auschwitz.

Block in red indicates the entrances to the different sections of Berksau.

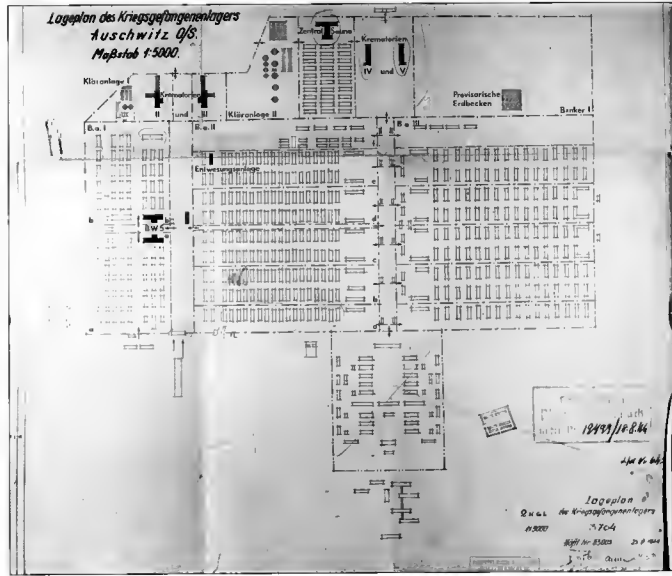
The areas strongly marked as pencil contour maps, buildings and installations that were preserved by the Polish «Ghetto» after the war. All the accommodation has been dismantled and replaced now by urban centers that had been destroyed during the fighting, in order to accommodate hundreds of Poles.

The network of drains and sewers that criss-crossed the camp is not shown. In the case of B.W. 100 (these drains in Kläranlage I, B.W. 100 in Kläranlage II and B.W. 100, under construction, in the provisional decontamination basins, a deep-pit network installed while awaiting the building of a sewage plant which would have been, according to the project drawings, made along the minor wings of Kläranlage II or at a different type, more concentrated and directly connected to the four provisional decontamination basins which would then become sludge purification basins.

While Kläranlage I became operational after various transformations, Kläranlage II never did despite the advanced state of its construction. Virtually the only sewage treatment at Berksau was decontamination in the open air, in long basins where the water was left slowly to «find» the sun. The secondary stage, biological purification, was never completed. Despite the efforts of the SS, the waste waters (decontaminated, greenish-grey/purified) after treatment in the three plants, I, II and provisional, ended up in the Kläranlage III, which flowed into the Vistula, but in fact lost only very partially treated.

It may seem surprising that an accommodation camp like Berksau had any sewage installations at all, as it was a «ghetto». After the screening of the human resources in Auschwitz, the disposal of the «residual» (children, women and old men) by means of gas chambers and incineration furnaces, the recuperation of the elements that could be exploited (men) by the Reich was made. The three completed construction stages of the camp would have consumed 140,000 prisoners. If not more, the population of a moderately sized town. Crowded together on an area of about 1.2 km², the mass of people needed for its survival, some sanitation and health arrangements apart from Krematoriumen. Without a certain minimum, no collective life would have been possible on the crowded land of Berksau, where it was already necessary to fight for survival in a pitiless selection environment against the weather conditions, famine and typhoid diseases.

Former prisoners often speak of the perennial stench that they breathed in Berksau, implicitly accusing the stench-befitting forth from the chimneys of the four Krematoriumen. This gas needs slight modification, however, for there were many periods when the furnaces were not working. The sewage plants treating waste water and excrement must have been responsible for a good deal of the unpleasant smell.



THE DELOUSING AND DISINFESTATION INSTALLATIONS IN KGL BIRKENAU BUILDINGS BW 5a and 5b (Summary study)

THE DELOUSING AND DISINFESTATION GAS CHAMBERS OF BAUWERKEN 5a and 5b (Birkenau I)

The study of «Work sites» 5a and 5b is the first construction stage (Birkenau I) presents delousing gas chambers using Zyklon-B and shows the evolution of the «disinfection» techniques used in these buildings.

When Birkenau I was completed it was a matter of urgency to have a delousing installation, like that of Stammlager Block 3. A project drawing of 8/1 1/41 (drawing 2) was made, showing showers and delousing grouped together, an arrangement that had not been possible initially in the main camp. The prisoners' health situation being catastrophic [Jaworski 1], the only product suitable for dense measures was one already used, Zyklon-B, which being in the form of a gas had necessarily to be used in a closed space, a «Gaskammer/gas chamber». The two buildings, BW 5a and 5b had one gas chamber per building, each ventilated by two extractors (fans).

As from April 1943 it was envisaged to replace delousing gas chambers by a less dangerous technique, that of hot air disinfection chambers [disinfection drawing 1262 of 8/43]. This conversion was concretized on drawing 2540 of 5th July 1943 [Jaworski 1].

At present, however, only BW 5b still has a gas chamber in conformity with drawings 801, 1293 and 1715 [drawings 2, 3 and 4]. Various improvements made to BW 5a and 5b meant that they were fitted with real saws. Later, the 5a gas chamber was dismantled, the ventilation of the roof modified, the extractor fans removed and the holes filled in. According to drawing 2540 (drawing 5), two hot air disinfection chambers of greatly reduced size were installed there, these being the same model as one already operating in the north part of BW 5a, together with an autoclave. This association was to be repeated later in the design of the «Zentral Sauna», but on a much larger scale.

In BW 5a and 5b, the delousing of the prisoners and their clothing always followed the same pattern. Simplifying the procedure somewhat, the prisoners entered, from left to right on the first two drawings [drawings 2 and 3], through the windbreak entrance into the «dirty» room

where they undressed [Photos 16] and their clothes were taken through the «dirty» anteroom and airlock to the gas chamber. After destruction of the lice using hydrocyanic acid, the effects were once more available to the prisoners, not of parasites, but still just as dirty. For their part, the prisoners passed under the showers, whose temperature varied according to the whim of the hot/cold water «mixers» on duty, then emerged on the «clean» side and waited for their treated clothes so that they could get dressed again. The overall operation could proceed more or less correctly or be transformed into a nightmare if the Capos or the SS were so inclined.

This model operated had a serious fault: the dirty clothes, that had been alive with lice, were given back with the lice dead but the clothes still dirty. Arrangements were made to try to alleviate this problem, the use of autoclaves [Photos 15] and hot air chambers [Photos 12 to 14] making it possible to disinfect and disinfect at the same time, as well as to roughly clean. It should be noted that the introduction of this new system and the source meant that the direction of the disinfection circuit was changed on the last two drawings [drawing 4 and 5] to right to left, the sequence for the prisoners being: undress / sauna / shower / wait / dress. As for the clothes, it is not possible to state whether they went in the autoclave, then in a gas chamber or vice versa whether they were one of these treatments.

BW 5a [Photos 9, 10 and 11] and 5b [Photos 6, 7 and 8] each had a delousing gas chamber of 108m² floor area, an enclosed space, separated from the main body of the building by airlocks, with no ventilation outlets in the roof ridge and ventilated artificially by two extractor fans.

A stove, fired from the airlock, i.e. from outside the gas chamber, completed the equipment initially. The part of the building enclosing the gas chamber being separated from the main part of the building and more sensitive to variations in the outside temperature, this single stove was not enough and two others were added (photographic evidence: Photos 10 and 11). The fact is that clothes do not give off natural heat like human beings and in winter it was necessary to heat the gas chamber to reach the point at which hydrocyanic acid evaporates, 26° C.

The characteristics of a traditional and «home made» delousing gas chamber in KL Auschwitz can be defined as follows:

- Room separated from others by one, or two, airlocks;
- An extractor (fan for ventilation);
- One or more stoves to obtain the hydrocyanic acid vapourisation temperature;
- The openings:

The doors and windows being of normal construction, they had to be sealed by sticking strips of paper over the cracks:

Gas-tight doors could be installed, gas-tightness being achieved by fixing felt sealing strips on both the door and the frame and a right fit being ensured by two angled bolts being screwed into the catches in which the latch bars were housed.

After the transformation of BW 5a, the path taken and the introduction of hot air by forced draught into the disinfection chambers are clearly indicated. The source of the hot air, on the other hand, is not known and the generators are not mentioned. It can be assumed that it either came from the main boiler house or that there was a separate heating system connected with the blower system, near to the disinfection chambers.

In the two delousing gas chambers of BW 5a and 5b there appeared in the course of time a bluish colouring of the walls, known as the «blue wall phenomenon», which permits the immediate distinction on sight between delousing and homicidal gas chambers. The delousing and homicidal installations where hydrocyanic gas was used were of exactly identical design: a closed space of any desired volume with one or two gas-tight or temporarily sealed doors and fitting with

one or two fans for ventilation (sometimes natural ventilation only). Their method of use was radically different. Lice are less susceptible to the toxicity of hydrocyanic acid than is man. A hydrocyanic gas concentration of 0.3 g/m³ (lethal dose) is immediately fatal for man, while in order to destroy lice a concentration of 3 g/m³ applied for at least 10 hours is necessary. If this concentration is maintained for 6 hours, all insects are destroyed [source: Degesch]. In Birkenau, the quantity poured into the homicidal gas chambers was forty times the lethal dose (12 g/m³) which killed without fail one thousand people in less than five minutes. Afterwards the fans were switched on or the natural ventilation started. Then came the cremation of the corpses over a period of 24 hours (in Krematorium II and III). The contact time for the hydrocyanic acid with the walls of the homicidal gas chambers never exceeded about ten minutes per day at a temperature below 30 degrees Celsius. In the clothing delousing gas chambers a minimum concentration of 5 g/m³ was used during several cycles per day, the duration of the cycle varying according to the contact time chosen. This hydrocyanic saturation for 12 to 18 hours a day was reinforced by the heat given off by stoves (situated in the chamber) providing a temperature of 30 degrees Celsius. The walls were impregnated with warm hydrocyanic acid for at least 12 hours a day, which was to bring about in the skin the formation of a dye, «Prussian blue» or potassium iron (III) hexacyanoferrate (II), whose composition varied according to the conditions of formation. The bluish colouring of the walls, internal and external, was not visible at the liberation of the camp, but appeared in subsequent years, under the influence of various physico-chemical factors which have not been studied. The «blue wall» phenomenon makes it possible now to distinguish visually, empirically, but with absolute certainty, between delousing gas chambers, where the phenomenon is present, and homicidal gas chambers where it is not. Without additional heat, the too brief contact of nevertheless high concentrations of hydrocyanic acid with the walls of the homicidal installations was not able to provoke a development of the reaction appreciable enough to be visible.

Document 1

«ONE LOUSE, YOUR DEATH»: a warning poster in German and Polish kept in the YHO reserves stocks and coming from Block 25 of the Sonnenlager

The shape of the SS and the script of the KL Auschwitz, like on a vector for emblematic typology.

A symbolic picture in view of the criminal goal of both the SS AND their camps.



In this extract from «Témoignages sur Auschwitz» (Edition de l'Amicale des déportés d'Auschwitz, 10 rue Leroux, Paris 16ème, 1946, pages 123 to 127) a dehousing operation at Birkenau in August 1943 is perfectly evoked by Macha Ravine, and the scene in the «sauna» takes place in BW 5a or 5b.

THE FIRST DELOUSING

Experienced at Birkenau (Womens Camp)

The whole camp was infested with lice. They were in the blankets, the straw mattresses and in our clothes if you put in a hand clutch in a black glove, when you pulled out it was covered with lice. We made such experiments which our disgust with the lice was so great that we wanted to amuse ourselves with our own mortuaries. There was no lack of lice or bugs either. Thanks to the lice the camp was ridged with typhus!

That the illness was a real plague and carried off thousands of victims was just one more factor in the extermination process and the Germans watched with satisfaction. But the danger was such that the SS who were in daily contact with the prisoners were themselves threatened. They therefore decided to combat typhus by «de-lousing». For weeks before it happened, there was talk of it in the camp, and all kinds of unbelievable stories were told. For example, that the lice were going to be exterminated with the gas that was used for humans, that we were going to be taken naked into the Sauna (de-lousing), maybe to be gassed ourselves, etc.

A few days before the first flood, a kommando of men (and prisoners) came into our camp and installed big beams of de-lousing liquid between the blocks, then vehicles arrived carrying gas cylinders. We watched all that with great apprehension and waited for the de-lousing like an execution. It was later done by Block 2. This was in the month of July 1943, a period when there were many transports coming from Greece and the blocks were full to bursting point. There were a thousand or even hundred people in a space where four or five hundred could only just fit.

On the appointed day, at 2 o'clock in the morning there was a general turn out. First we had to carry our straw mattresses and then to the de-lousing. A thousand women dragging their mattresses and blankets and having to go back and forth as many as three times. Then, to our great distress, we had to undress completely and make a bundle of our clothes and plunge it into the basin of de-lousing liquid. The disgusting sight of our bundles was to be the number seven on our sleeves. To complete our misery, we were forced to relinquish our personal bags, made of rags, but which contained all the worldly wealth of prisoners. Some women had only a damaged pocket, a brass ring, a share of a comb, a handkerchief. Others, better to look like themselves, also had a knife, a spoon, a few spoons stolen from the canteen of the block taking them to the kitchen. Some had a piece of soap, a spare blouse bought with the camp money, bread, which we sacrificed each time we wanted to have some «luxury» object. We therefore parted off our worldly possessions to our bundles with the firm conviction that none of these precious things would ever return to their owner. We would have to wait for a few days to be able to «reorganise» since more a still personal property, without which no civilian person can live. That deprived before being de-loused we had to wait for the roll call as if the block chief, an SS man, could count on us.

We were a thousand women as naked as the day we were born. We had lost our modesty before the Nazis in numerous scenes which they considered us to be buried pigs. As for them, in our eyes they were regarded as humans. But there were also in the camp male prisoners of the de-lousing Kommando and our pride was injured. Furthermore, it was extremely cold at 6 o'clock in the morning and we were shivering all over. Separating together in rows of five, those ranks of skeletons and debilitated women formed a macabre spectacle going far beyond Dante's imagination. When the roll call was over we were to the «Sauna» and the thousand women paraded before a representative body of the SS with in their head the sinister assassin Tauber who examined us, very pleased with the new statistic criterion. Near the group of SS was a woman report writer (Rapportführerin), a prisoner who worked directly for the Kommando. She was wearing a splendid silk dress, which contrasted in striking fashion with our miserable ruddy. This incident occurred the five hundred women appearing us from Sauna. There every woman had at her body hair shaved and her hair cropped close. We were introduced to a steam room in the form of an amphitheatre where we collapsed, happy to escape from our odious state. We were glad to be in the welcome warmth of which our bodies were constantly deprived through lack of food and warmth. We stayed there a few hours with empty stomachs. Those who had kept some of their bread ration the day before had left it in their bags which had been confiscated. In their distress at losing all their possessions, they had forgotten the bread. We began to suffer from hunger, but we were afraid of losing it. Perhaps we would have our hair at midday? But that was still far off, and normally, during extraordinary times like this one, they forgot to feed us.

After waiting some hours, we were made to enter a freezing shower room. The water too was icy cold. We tried to fight against the sudden change, but we were brutally and with extraordinary force pushed under the water and had to submit to this that which caused pneumonia and pleurisy among many of us. We waited in vain for towels, and they failed and together to give us any soap, despite all the ceremonial preparations for the de-lousing and the importance that was attached to it. So, we washed and still naked, we were into another room of the Sauna feeding, where food was well served. Shivering with cold, fatigue and hunger we waited for something to eat. Noon was long gone when it finally arrived. We threw ourselves on the beds like starving animals. In the noise of tables scraped we received our soup in red bowls, irregularly large as compared with the meagre ration of food. These women who knew how to push themselves forward got two or three bowls, while the others who waited for their turn got nothing. Deprived of our spoons, we ate the soup like dogs, greedily taking the bowls.

After the soup (it was 5 o'clock in the afternoon) they took us back, still naked, to our blocks. By now we were too tired to feel our humiliation as heavily as we had in the morning. The blocks which had been de-loused, were not yet open and we had to wait outside. Our clothes, taken out of the basin, were spread on the ground in front of the block. In a scene of indescribable chaos, each woman tried to find her bundle, but it was impossible. The order was given to throw them on the roof as if they would dry. Finally the door was opened and naked beds and were to be buried in bare boards. The mattresses and blankets were still in the de-lousing building. There were ten naked women to a bunk. We were shivering with cold and squashed against one another to try to get warm but were able to sleep and forget this terrible day, but the sleep did not come because despite our efforts we couldn't get warm enough. We had one single thought: death was very sweet as compared with our suffering and humiliation. Late in the night some managed to fall asleep, but at 3 o'clock we were woken up as usual. We had to go outside still naked, for roll call. It is impossible for me to describe the suffering, the cold, the humiliation even more. After the roll call we huddled together again and waited for sunrise before able to retrieve our clothes by climbing onto a roof. Those who were youngest and strongest managed more easily, and took from the open and would up bundle the best belongings and made themselves a few wardrobe for the others there were only rags.

Soon death in the sun the block took on a tragicomic aspect. Some of its inhabitants were well dressed while among the others some had only panties and a short petticoat, no blouse and no skirt, others had a skirt and no panties or petticoat. The rowing and shouting never ceased. People snatched clothes from each other, each one claiming what it was anything of any value that it belonged to her. Heaps of rags remained on the ground, wet and ugly. No one intervened. The women block chiefs, remained quietly in their rooms and took no notice. A thousand women, many of them wives and mothers and who in civilian life occupied a respectable place in society, fought among themselves for turn and tony clothes to defend their miserable existence. That night we again were in bed without any blankets, but we were wearing a few rags on our bodies and that seemed a comfort compared with the previous night. The next day was another work day. The de-lousing was over, we were clean but had cold in clothing that would have been comic if it had not been as disgusting. We paraded in ranks, in perfect order through the gates of the camp where the band leader went to our marching. Our captives looked on with satisfaction the countless army of slaves of the Reich was going to work to create a «new order». A few days after the roll call. The first de-lousing that resulted in nothing other than hundreds of cases of pneumonia and some of tuberculosis and we watched our names diminish day by day. Still another method of extermination. The camp with mental life name: «BIRKENAU» extermination camp.

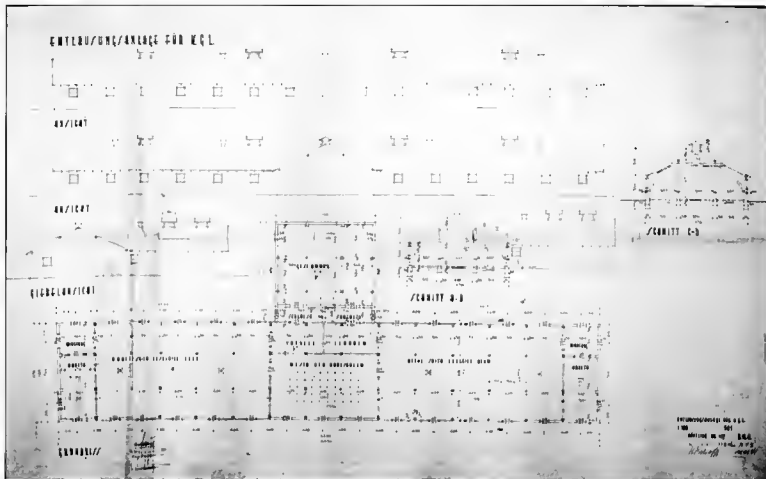
Macha RAVINE 35.334

It should be pointed out, purely on the basis of the evidence and without any ulterior motive, that the witness considers that whatever the SS do is always directed against the prisoners. The typhus that regularly ravaged the camp is perceived as just one more means of extermination, despite the unsuccessful attempt by the SS to eradicate it through large-scale de-lousing. Because they themselves were threatened, of course.

Translations of the inscriptions
the four BW 5a and 5b drawings:

(The same terms found on different drawings are translated only once, in the order of their appearance)

- Ansicht/elevation
- Querschnitt/cuttable and elevation
- Windfang (WF)/windbreak
- Abort/toilet
- Grundriss/plan view
- Gaskammer/gas chamber
- Schleuse/airlock
- Rolltür/mooring by roller
- Vorraum/vestibule
- Schnitt A-B/cross section A-B (elevator side)
- Schnitt C-D/cross section C-D (of the gas chamber)
- Wasch und Braustraum/washing and shower room
- Urseine Seite, Ankleideraum/dirty side, dressing room
- Reine Seite, Ankleideraum/clean side, dressing room
- Drainage/drainage
- Kloppe/trap



Drawing 2. Building drawing 801 of 8/11/1941 (PMO ref. No 208121)

ENTLAUSUNGSANLAGE FÜR KGL/Decontamination installation for prisoner of war camp

Scale 1:100

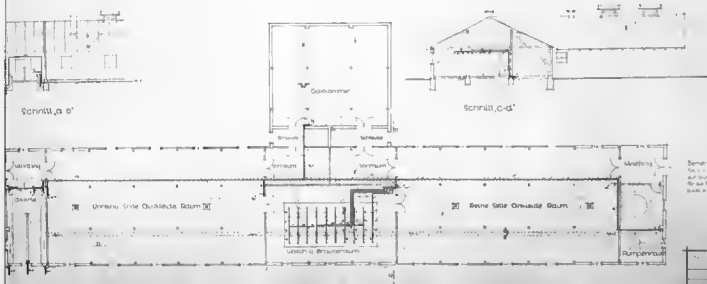
Drawn 8th November 1941 by prisoner No. 127.

checked on 10th by SS Unterscharführer Walter Dege

and approved on 10th by SS Hauptsturmführer Karl Bruchhoff head of the Bauleitung.

Be. u. Entwässerung der Entlausungsbaracke im K.G.L.

Maßstab 1:100



Bemerkung: Die Messungsergebnisse für die
 Teil 1 + 2 sind nicht in der Tabelle dargestellt, weil
 auf Grund eines Problems in ITN ausgelassen. Der
 für die Punkte 1. und 2. benötigte Wert ist in der
 Tabelle in der 7. Spalte der jeweiligen Zeile angegeben.

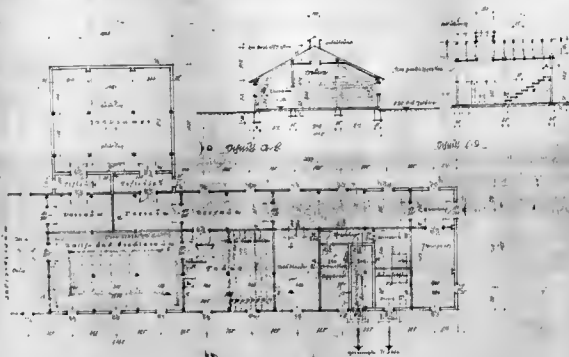
Drawing 3: Working drawing 1293 of 9/25/1942 (PAG ref. No. 209127)

BE- UND ENTWASSERUNG DER ENTLASUNGSBARACKE IM KOL/Water supply and drainage in the delousing building of the prisoner of war camp

Scale 1:100
Drawn 9th May 1942 by prisoner No. 18356,
checked by Untersammler Eggeking on 11th May
and approved by Hauptmannführer Buschhoff the same day.

Macrombryscale,
 Pumpentransportpumpe
 Schnitt a-b: Querschnitt a-b (inlet)
 Schnitt c-d: Querschnitt c-d (inlet)

Entwurf einer Baracke im KZ D. Q. R.
Entwurf einer Baracke im KZ D. Q. R.



Drawing 4

Rechnung drawing 1715 of 25/01/1942 (PMO reg. No. 200/1942)

ENTLAUSUNGSBARACKE IM KOLEZBAU EINES SALINAANLAGES/DRUCKBLATT
ZUR Nr. 101/POW camp decontamination building/facilities of a saltworks sheet for drawing 802

- Schnitt A-B: section of main
- Schnitt C-D: longitudinal section of main
- Entlastungslinie: extraction of natural ventilation
- O.B.: Geländegrund: level
- Innenraum: interior
- Innenraum: interior
- Sitz u. Liegeflächen: benches for sitting and lying
- Erweiterungsgewölbe: extension equipment
- Umlauf: circulation
- Rinn: Rinn: side
- Duschkabine: shower
- Ankleide: dressing room
- Gerüst: Wäsche: iron
- 5 cm: Herabstufung: 5 cm

Bezeichnung der Bauteile 11 und Bauteile

Bezeichnung	Material	Maßstab	Zeichner
11	11	11	11
11	11	11	11
11	11	11	11
11	11	11	11

Architectural floor plan of the first floor of the Federal Reserve Bank Building in New York City. The plan shows a large rectangular building with a central corridor and various rooms. Key areas include the 'Main Entrance' at the top center, a 'Lobby' to the right, and a 'Banking Room' at the bottom. The plan is labeled with 'FLOOR' and 'NEW YORK CITY'.

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Fornungsgewand
unter der Aufsicht der

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5273

Scale 1 100
drawn by person No. 127 on 5th July 1943,
checked by SS Unterscharführer Degano and Jurek
and approved by an undersigned officer the same day.

Heinold's apparatus for one generator
 Brauerström (50 Brauerstr.) (Näverveien) (50 Skovveien)

THE BW 5b GAS CHAMBER



Photo 6 South side



Photo 7 East end wall



Photo 8 North side

On the left, known ground level is not before the chimney. Much stains can be seen on the bricks of the wall, showing that hydrocyanic acid was used there on 1942-44, for dehousing purposes. In a homicidal gas chamber the action of highly concentrated HCN was rapid and intense (never more than 15 to 20 minutes), at a temperature below 77°C. then the room was aired or artificially ventilated to get rid of the gas as quickly as possible and finally it was necessary to burn all the corpses so that traces of toxic gas be not a day before a new cycle could be started. The acid had been tested on metal parts superficially freezing, outside, but did not have enough time to impregnate and stain the brick. Conversely, the operation of a dehousing gas chamber need much lower concentrations of HCN, but as a general rule and according to witnesses, the gas remained for a very much longer time, from 16 to 18 hours, and a higher temperature was maintained by heating the chamber by stoves (for example there were three stoves in the BW 5b gas chamber).

From left to right on photo 6 the outside entrance to the dirty network of BW 5b, the chimneys for the stoves (probably there is still, but on Photos 6 and 8 two additional chimneys can be seen low on the roof which do not appear on the drawings), the two natural ventilation openings on the roof and the two wall outlets of the extraction fans (Photo 7).

THE BW 5a DISINFESTATION CHAMBER



Photo 9 North side



Photo 10 West end

On photo 10 from left to right, the two windows (with the round fitted in hole where one of the extractor fans of the ferment gas chamber was installed) and the access door of the room containing the hot air generator



Photo 11 South side

Photo 11 shows, beyond the door seen on Photo 10, the windows of the two disinfestation chambers and the exterior door of the science lab/bk



Photo 12: (West wing of BW 5a)

Gas tight door of a decontamination chamber, with inspection window



Photo 13: (West wing of BW 5a)

Interior of a decontamination chamber on a north-south line



Photo 14: (West wing of the BW 5a)

Detail of the frame (with sealing strip), of a decontamination chamber door (north side)



Photo 15:

BW 5b associated with west part.



Photo 16:

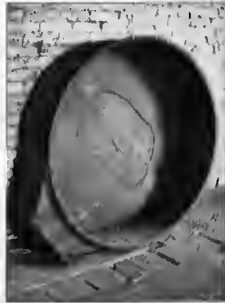


Photo 17:

Part of a hot air blower found in the northern underground corridor of BW 5a

Photo 18:

«Over these, your death», slogan on the wall of the BW 5b underground room.
Other warnings are also to be found there:
• *Starker sein ist deine Pflicht!* (Your duty is to be strong) and
• *Vorbilder nicht nachahmen!* (Believe properly)



Photo 19:

Interior of the northern part of the west wall of BW 5a. This wall is still the victim, whereas to the spectrum of a cleaning chamber using hydrocyanic acid (Blausäure-Maisäure in German) before its incorporation and the installation of hot air chambers.

THE DISINFESTATION INSTALLATION OF THE GYPSY CAMP IN SECTOR B.IIe OF BIRKENAU

In the second stage of the construction of Birkenau camp, B.IIe, a stable-type WC block in the Gypsy Camp (B.IIe) was transformed at the end of 1943 or in early 1944 into a disinfection installation for effects. Only the south-east part of this installation was photographed by the Auschwitz-Birkenau [Phase 1]. It was made up essentially of a battery of eight disinfection chambers that occupied almost half the area of the hut, controlled and operated in pairs [drawing 1]. In each of these there were three rooms, each having about 45 minutes. Electric motors indicate that these chambers had forced ventilation. Located exactly in the corner of B.IIe [Banishment drawing 3764 of 23.1.44], its internal arrangements are not precisely known. The disinfection vector or product used against lice is indicated in «Der Auschwitz-Prozess» by Hermann Langbein (Europa Verlag Wien, Frankfurt, Zürich, reprint of the Frankfurt trial in 1963-1965), volume 2, p. 568.

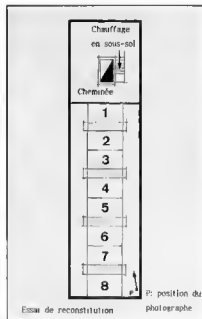


Photo 1

Banishment photograph (PMO neg. No. 20965 420)
«Disinfection installation in the gypsy camp»

Entwesungsanlage Zigeunerlager

Drawing 2



Translation of inscriptions:

Essai de reconstitution /
Attempted reconstruction of the internal layout
of the disinfection hut of B.IIe
cheminée/
Chimney
chauffage en sous-sol /
Boiler room in basement with access by external
stairway
position du photographe/
Position of the photographer

THE BIRKENAU «ZENTRAL SAUNA» WITH ITS DISINFECTION AUTOCLAVES AND ITS TOPF DISINFESTATION OVENS

THE BIRKENAU «ZENTRAL SAUNA» or «NEUE SAUNA» designated worksite BW 32

A study of the «Zentral Sauna» is necessary for several reasons:

1. The revisionists (e.g. Faurisson) have claimed here what they consider to be the only gas chambers in Birkenau.
2. In order to distinguish between and separate as far as possible the extermination and disinfection installations, since the confusion between the two has often been used as a system of defence by SS defendants (such as Dejaco).
3. In order to show that a realistic and in-depth study proves that there were no gas chambers in this complex.
4. In order to enable the reader to compare the documentation produced by the author (drawings, contemporary and recent photographs, correspondence and testimonies) with that of the revisionists.

The Zentral Sauna was the most comprehensive disinfection and disinfection installation in KGL Birkenau. Designed after the «sanitary crisis» of August 1942 (typhus epidemic), the first three drawings for it date from November 1942 [Drawings 1 and 2]. Its equipment was to include three disinfection autoclaves and four Topf disinfection hot air chambers [Drawing 4]. However the Bauleitung did not rapidly commence construction on worksite 32 for two reasons: first, the epidemic having been brought partially under control the need for a large sanitary and delousing installation was felt less urgently; second, as a consequence of a more «controlled» situation, obtaining funds from the WVHA-SS for a major installation was less of a priority. The November 1942 drawings were received by Berlin in January 1943. Designed for carrying out several sanitary operations at the same time both on the prisoners (haircut, medical examination, disinfection and shower) and on their clothing and effects (disinfection), the main fault with these initial plans was the inadequate space allowed for reception and waiting areas for the prisoners. The Bauleitung corrected this fault by having four more virtually definitive drawings produced in March 1943 [Drawings 5, 6, 7 and 8]. The Berlin WVHA-SS was probably informed of this change in the letters from the Bauleitung of 28th April 1943 the first three drawings are considered cancelled and the Auschwitz Bauleitung is recommended to note the construction as accurately as possible for its purpose [cf correspondence]. The drainage drawing [Drawing 9] for the building was produced in May, after acceptance of the new configuration of BW 32. The necessary credits were made available at the beginning of June and work started immediately, spurred by the perfectly justified fear of a resurgence of typhus as summer approached. After a number of last-minute alterations [Drawing 10], the installation was completed in the autumn of 1943 [Drawing 11; Photos 12, 13 and 14]. It entered service in December 1943 [Photos 15, 17, 25, 30, 31, 35 and 41] and functioned until the liberation of the camp in January 1945. It fell intact into Soviet hands [Photo 18]. It is not known whether photos were taken of the interior of the building at that time. In the 50s or 60s the roof of the central part of the Zentral Sauna fell in. A fairly complete restoration was then undertaken by the Auschwitz Museum. This must have borne in mind when studying the present state of the premises [Photos 19a to 22, 27 to 29, 32 to 34, 36 to 40, 42 and 43]. As the level of the water table has risen over the years due to a lack of maintenance of the drainage system installed by the SS, the basement of the Zentral Sauna is completely flooded with water which it is no longer possible to remove, despite the installation of a pump for this purpose.

[THE CORRESPONDENCE CONCERNING THE ZENTRAL SAUNA (BW 32)]

In the Archives of the Weimar Central Commission for the investigation of Hitlerian crimes in Poland there is a microfilm from the Soviet «October Revolution» central state archives dated 1969 and with the reference number M.598k in the Section «Archivsammlung no 1372, Beschreibung no 5, Evidence no 156», with a series of 14 pages of letters tracing the history of the reasons for the building of a disinfection and disinfection centre subsequently to be called the «Zentral Sauna», a building that was a sauna only in name. Not possessing a copy of these letters, I give below a short résumé containing the full list with, in brackets after the dates, the file number in the Section.

7th April 1943 (14): The Auschwitz Bauleitung sent the project drawings for a disinfection installation to Berlin (no doubt the new drawings for BW 32, numbers 2151, 2157, 2159 and 2164).

28th April 1943 (13 and 12), the Berlin WVHA replied to the Bauleitung after assessing the drawings:

«Die Warte Area, Ankleiderkabinen und nicht größer als nötig vorzubehalten the waiting undressing and dressing rooms should not be any bigger than necessary».

The first three drawings for BW 32 had in fact contained such big waiting rooms for the prisoners. Offering such «comfort» to the «enemies of the Reich» could be considered «sabotage» of the war effort, which meant economies on the home front in favour of the external front. In addition, the WVHA noted that the initial drawings received on 13th January 1943 were «cancelled» (ungültig) [the bureaucracy in Berlin who replied to the Auschwitz Bauleitung was somewhat negligent in his work, because his numbers 1801, 1845 and 1850 should really be 1851, 1846 and 1850].

4th June 1943 (9 and 8), after work had started on BW 32, the Bauleitung wrote to the Berlin WVHA reporting on progress. The installation was now urgently required because of the drastic health situation in the Gypsy Camp (Birkenau B.III). The «Entwesungsanlagen (disinfection ovens)» (see drawing D.60283) were supplied by Topf & Sons of Erfurt, the autoclaves by another specialist firm in Munich. The future Zentral Sauna was also carefully described.

5th June 1943 (7) a letter thought to be a handwritten note from SS General Kammerer of the WVHA.

9th June 1943 (6 and 5), 30th June 1943 (10), 8th July 1943 (11) and 17th July 1943 (41): letters reporting on the progress made on the «Entwesungs- und Desinfektionsanlage» in K.G.L. (disinfection and disinfection building at the POW camp).

20th July 1943 (2), the Bauleitung stressed the «Hygienische selbst Massnahmen im KL

Bereich immediate health measures in the concentration camp area». The letter mentioned the fight against rats and spoke of the installation of a «Leichenkammer» (corpse hall) [inquiry] in view of the increased number of deaths.

4th August 1943 (3 and 1) two letters signed by the Head of the Bauleitung, Bischoff, again spoke of building a Leichenhalle.

This exchange of correspondence highlights three important points:

- The dreadful state of hygiene and health in July 1943 in the gypsy camp, a source of proliferation of pests carrying diseases such as typhus;
- The presence of rats in the prisoners' accommodation (on top of the SS, Cypres and Vorarbeiter);
- The direct intervention of the Berlin WVHA in the design of a disinfection and disinfection building, the Zentral Sauna, which was after all a fairly straightforward project. This drawing on the part of Berlin was to serve as an abut for one of the Krematorium «architects», Usterumföhret Walther Dejaco, for example, in his deposition of 3rd April 1962 before the Rente Rente Tribunal (trial in Vienna in January-March 1972).

THE EFFECTS DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION OPERATIONS :

These operations as carried out at the Zentral Sauna were described in a letter sent to the Auschwitz Museum by a Czech former prisoner:

(Summary)

The procedures used were

1. **Hot air:** Large and heavy effects, such as coats, outer clothing, etc.,
2. **Steam:** «light» effects, such as underclothes, white and any type of clothing considered as light for example the «Zentral-Kleider», prison uniforms. Blankets were also included in this group.
3. **Other:** Leather objects, such as shoes, belts, etc. were disinfected using Karbol Liquid or water containing hydrocyanic acid, a mixture obtained by pouring Zydon-B crystals into the water.

This letter mentions that the operations continued 24 hours a day, with three shifts of prisoners on this task, changing every eight hours. It will be noted that the methods described by this former prisoner were almost identical with those used in the US Army at that time [see following page].

US ARMY DISINFESTATION METHODS

Extracts from the «MEDICAL FIELD MANUAL. FIELD SANITATION» published by the United States War Department, Washington D.C. 1940, taken from chapter 9 «Control of lice».

168. CONTROL MEASURES

(2) Disinfestation of clothing and equipment

2. Lice and their eggs are killed in one minute when subjected to dry heat at a temperature of 155°F [68°C] as in five minutes at 131°F [55°C]. immersion in boiling water for thirty seconds will kill both adults and eggs. Dry heat will not injure woolen, felt, or webbing but will harm wooden fabrics. Boiling water will cause shrinking of wool but steam causes very little shrinkage.

171. MOBILE DISINFESTORS

These are of the four-wheel trailer type and are usually steam pressure disinfestors although a current steam disinfester is manufactured (three type). The pressure type consists of a horizontal steam chamber around which there is an outer jacket which is assembled as a unit with a boiler. After the clothing is placed in the disinfester a vacuum of 10 to 15 inches [254 to 381 mm of Mercury] is created after which the steam is turned on until a positive pressure of 15 pounds [1.1 kg] is attained (corresponding to a water temperature of 165°C), the being held for about twenty minutes. At the end of this time the steam is released and a vacuum of 10 to 15 inches is produced in order to dry the clothing. This vacuum is held for about five minutes. Clothing should be placed loosely in order that the steam may penetrate.

172. SERBIAN BARREL

a. (Summary) here clothes placed in a galvanized garbage can as barrel with one man in the bottom are disinfested by having steam from boiling water underneath passed through them for forty five minutes.

173. IMPROVISED HOT AIR DISINFESTORS

Clothing and equipment may be placed in sacks, boxes or cans and subjected to dry heat. Small buildings or dugouts may be converted into hot air disinfesters by installing heating apparatus which will heat the air to 160°F [71°C]. Clothing should be hung loosely and exposed for about thirty minutes.

175. HOT WATER

Cotton, linen or silk clothing may be disinfested by immersion in boiling water for one minute at a water having a temperature of 155°F [57°C] or more for five minutes. In order to disinfect as well as disinfest, the clothing should be subjected to a temperature of at least 160°F [71°C] for fifteen to thirty minutes. Woolen clothing can be disinfested by this process, but considerable shrinkage will occur. Leather, felt or webbed articles are damaged by exposure to hot water.

177. CHEMICALS

a. Chemicals such as acetic acid (vinegar), kerosene, gasoline, cresol or naphthalene may be applied to the person as clothing of the infested individual. Most of these substances will not kill the eggs however.

b. (Summary) a 5% solution of cresol in water or a 2% solution that can be maintained at a temperature of about 100°F [38°C] for thirty minutes.

c. (Addendum of December 1943) Methyl bromide bag fumigation using a special bag already containing an ampule of 20cc. The time of exposure varies according to the temperature of the clothing: at 55°F [13°C] or above, three quarters of an hour. For each 10°F [5.6°C] above 55°F half an hour is added to the fumigation period, giving one and a quarter hours at 45°F [7°C], one and three quarter hours at 35°F [2°C] and two and a quarter hours at 25°F [-4°C].

These extracts from the US Army recommendations on field sanitation show the different delousing methods that can be used according to the effects to be disinfested.

Paragraph 171 makes it possible to understand the working of the three autoclaves in the Burkenau Zentral Sauna and the function of the two gauges fitted on the southern door: one for temperature, the other for pressure.

The principle of methyl bromide bag fumigation is that of a small gas chamber. In Auschwitz, the bag became a brick or concrete gas-tight room and the delousing agent was hydrocyanic acid.

Extract from a revisionist publication

[Copy of pages 310 and 311 of *Vérité historique ou vérité politique. Le dossier de l'officier Faurisson la question des chambres à gaz* (Historical truth or political truth, the file on the Faurisson affair, the question of gas chambers), by Serge Thion, La Vieille Taupe, April 1980]

Document IV

Documentation photographique

Deux photos (1 et 2) d'une vraie chambre à gaz d'Auschwitz-Birkenau. Il s'agit d'un autoclave pour la désinfection des habits. (1) L'autoclave vu de l'extérieur. (2) L'intérieur avec ses treillis pour les vêtements. Explication: le genre des vêtements n'était pas une vérité absolue. Il y avait des installations d'une complexité relative. On utilisait notamment le Zyklon B, gaz très puissant, difficile à ventiler en principe au genre des bâtiments, des idées, des savoirs. On utilisait le «N», le «Carin», le «Vermox», l'«Aergal», etc. Imaginer, puis exécuter, l'appareillage extraordinairement sophistiqué qui a été, dans la chambre à gaz, construit pour passer chaque jour plusieurs centaines de 2000 hommes avec du Zyklon B (gaz, observation, mise en Zyklon B et, surtout, séparation).

310



PHOTO 1

Tradition

Document IV

Photographic documentation

Two photographs (1 and 2) of a real gas chamber in Auschwitz-Birkenau. It is an autoclave for the disinfection of clothing (1); the autoclave seen from the outside (2); the interior with the rails to hang clothing. **Explanation.** The getting of clothes was not an easy business. It required relatively complicated installations, difficult to ventilate and was used, conducted too powerful. Zyklon B was rarely used, conducted too powerful, difficult to ventilate and was generally kept for gassing buildings, ships, ships. The products used were «N», Carin, Vermox, Aergal, etc. Imagine, therefore, the extraordinarily sophisticated equipment that would have had to be designed and built to gas every day several batches of 2 000 people with Zyklon B (Jacevič, observation, introduction of Zyklon-B and, above all, ventilation).

311



PHOTO 2

AUTOCLAVES OR GAS CHAMBERS?

«Document IV» above is presented by Faurisson in support of his thesis that gas chambers are very complex pieces of equipment. Photo 1 is the present state of the scene in Photo 35, and Photo 2 is the equivalent of 28. The documentation provided is limited to these two photographs.

I would point out first of all the immediate contradiction in the first two lines explaining photos 1 and 2 stating that a gas chamber is an autoclave. The definition of autoclave according to the *Encyclopédie internationale des sciences et des techniques* (in 10 volumes), Presse de la Cité, volume 2, page 87, is as follows:

The autoclave (from Greek *autos* and Latin *clavis*, which closes itself), is an apparatus derived from the principle of the pressure cooker of Denis Papin (1647-1714) whose hermetic closing is obtained by **internal pressure of steam** (underlined by the author) which produces a sharp rise in temperature, to which the enclosed objects of materials are subjected (generally to sterilise them).

In a conventional delousing gas chamber, the operation of the gas depends on its concentration and the duration of contact. The gas fills the entire volume of the gas chamber, and the pressure exerted by it in normal practice, though there may be exceptions, is infinitesimal, and does not require anything in the nature of an «autoclave».

Through the lack of any specific German written documents, which nevertheless must have existed, indicating in black and white that the Topf disinfecting ovens worked with hot air and the autoclaves with steam (a statement of the obvious), it is not possible to formally prove that the autoclaves were not gas chambers. But Photo 38 showing a pressure gauge for monitoring the steam pressure and thermometer for the temperature suffices in itself to make up for this initial lack of proof.

The «revisionists» are past masters in this type of squabbling over the strict interpretation of documents. The segment may therefore remain undecided for a long time and its duration may confuse many people with only limited knowledge of Auschwitz. This revisionist tactic «pays off» as long as there is no new evidence. The day when a newly discovered drawing or letter makes it possible to explain the reality in black and white the «revisionists» will be routed.

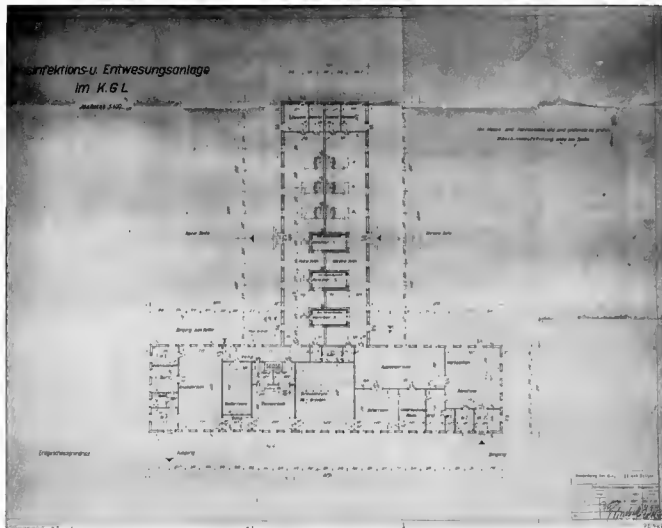
CONCLUSION

The presentation of project drawings, definitive drawings, contemporary photographs and present-day photographs of the Zentral Sauna will have enabled the reader to familiarise himself with and understand the way in which the Bauleitung members worked and the evolution and transformations that may occur in a building. The design of Birkenau Krematorium II, III, IV and V are no exception to this rule and we shall find a similar evolution there.

I have also taken the example of the Zentral Sauna autoclaves to show the difficulty of finding documents to refute certain affirmations - quite manifestly erroneous - made by the revisionists, i.e. that an autoclave is not a gas chamber.

Lastly I would point out to visitors that the Zentral Sauna is not normally open to visitors but the Polish staff of the museum never refuse a request to see it.

[The first three drawings presented are simply Bauleitung projects that were never actually realised.]



Drawing 1 Bauleitung drawing 1841 of 24/1142 [P980.dwg no 20947]

Desinfektions- u. Entwesungsanlage im K.G.L., Entschweis-/Schmelzraum und Desinfektionsinstallation, POW camp (Birkenau), ground floor

Drawn by prisoner 538,
checked by Dejean and approved by Bischoff on 28/11/42

Translation of the inscriptions:

Maßstab 1:100/scale 1:100

Personal/men

Material/stores

Alle Messen und Rohbaumasse und sind nochmals zu prüfen. Maschine, nachfolgend siehe bei 2. Zyklus/All the dimensions are rough and need to be checked. For the installation of machines see separate drawing

Rume Saure/clean soda

Unreine Seite/dirty soda

7cm Heraklinplatten/7cm Heraklin panel

Kammer 1, 2, Schauer 1, 2, 3

Eingang zum Keller/entrance to basement

Treppe/stairs

Endgeschoss/ground floor plan

W.C./W.C.

Büro/office

SS W.C./SS W.C.

Vent./ventilator

W.F./windbreak

Ausgang/exit

Ankleideraum/dressing room

Gang/corridor

Brillenschein/water tanks

Handtücher/towels

Trockenraum/drying room

2 Br./2 showers

Brausebad, 54 Brausen/shower room, 54 showers

Ankleideraum/undressing room

Schmerzmittelabgabe (where prisoners' heads were cropped)

Unterabgang/Medical examination room

Atti/duct

Wartsaal/waiting hall

Ausgang/exit

Eingang/entrance

Given the Bauleitung designation B W 32, this building is a sauna only in name. Its function is reduced to the disinfection of the prisoners and their clothing.

The circuit followed by the prisoners is via the entrance where they are «received», the «depot» for their valuables, the undressing room where they undergo medical examination and have their heads shorn. Their clothes are sent to the showers or to the chambers. The prisoners then go to the showers in groups of fifty, receive a towel to dry themselves and wait for their disinfected and disinfected clothes that they put on in the dressing room. After a final inspection by the SS they emerge from the «sauna», in which it should be noted that the dressing and undressing rooms, though they appear large, are extremely cramped in view of the numbers.

Drawing 2

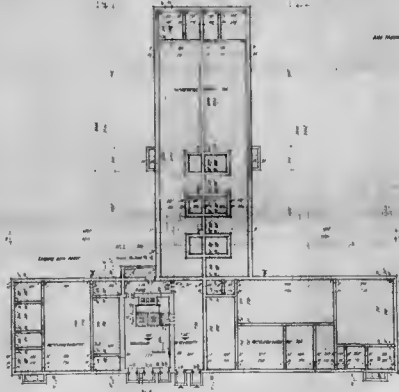
Staffelung drawing 1846 of 25/11/42. (PMO ref no. 20855-1)

Desinfektions- u. Entwesungsanlage Kellerbasement und
Grundstation installation, basement

Drawn by prisoner 578 on 25/11/42,
checked by Dejana and approved by Buschhoff on 28/11/42
Scale 1:100

**Desinfektions- u. Entwesungsanlage
im K.G.L.**

Abgeschlossen 1942



Alle Räume sind für den Betrieb der Anlage zu prüfen.

Translation of the inscriptions:

Kellerbasementgrundriss/basement plan
Nichtauskellerter Teilpart wuh no basement
Herzumbau/boiler room
Handpumpe/hand pump
Fischleintank/fish an intake
Brennstoff/fuel store.

Kellerbasementgrundriss

Grundstation

Herzumbau

Bezeichnung des Baues: 10 mit Bauplan

in der Anlage 10.10.42

Bezeichnung des Baues: 10 mit Bauplan

in der Anlage 10.10.42

Bezeichnung des Baues: 10 mit Bauplan

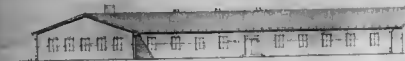
in der Anlage 10.10.42

Bezeichnung des Baues: 10 mit Bauplan

in der Anlage 10.10.42

Desinfektions- u. Entwesungsanlage im K.G.L.

Mäße 1:100



Seitenansicht



Vorderansicht



Hinteransicht



Schnitt A-B



Schnitt C-D

Alle Angaben sind nach- und bei Bedarf



Drawing 3.
Baseline drawing 1850 of 741 (LX) JPMG neg. no. 209 (193)
Desinfektions- u. Entwesungsanlage Ansicht/section and
disinfection umstance elevations
Drawn by printer 538 on 24/1/42,
checked by Dejaux and approved by Busch on 26/1/42.

Translation of inscriptions:

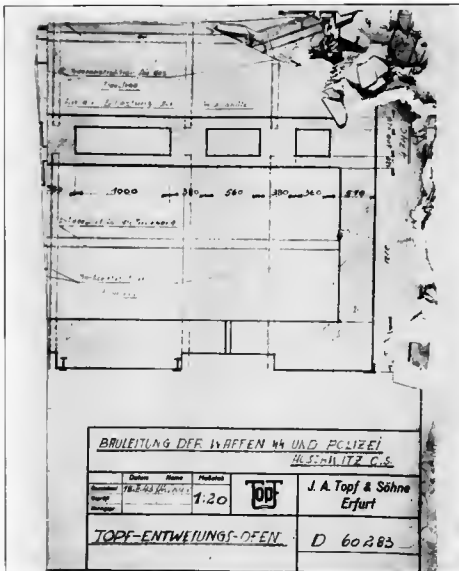
Seitenansicht/side elevation
Vorderansicht/front elevation
Hinteransicht/rear elevation
Schnitt A-B/cross section A-B
18cm Beton mit 2cm Estrich, 18cm Vorlag
18cm concrete with 2cm screed, 18cm hard fill
Schnitt C-D/cross section C-D
Spar-Binder siehe bes. Zeichnung/roof truss -
see separate drawing
Dachdeckung Dachpappe/roof covering roof-
ing felt
O.K. Gelände/ground level
Massivdecke/solid ceiling
Isolierung/damp-proofing
Eisenbeton/reinforced concrete

Drawing 4
Topf & Söhne drawing D 60283 of 19/243

TOPF-ENTWEISUNGS-OFEN/Topf disinfection oven

Drawn by J.A. Topf & Söhne, Erfurt, on 16/2/43 for the construction of the Waffen SS and Police Auschwitz G.S./Waffen SS and Police Construction Management Auschwitz Upper Silesia.

Scale 1:20



Translation of inscriptions:

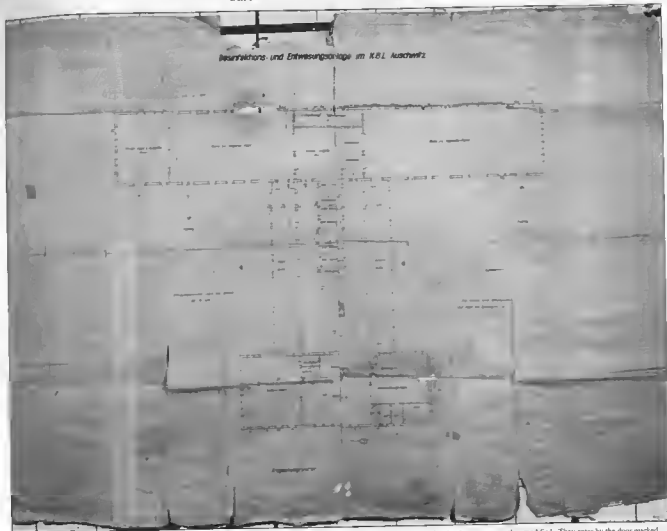
- Tragkonstruktion für das Fingeld/blower housing für die Entlastung des Heizkanals...to relieve the hot air ducts
- Auflegeblech für die Trennwand/support plate for the separating wall.

(The dimensions on the drawing are in millimetres).

This drawing comes from the Moscow «October Revolution» central state archives. It was supplied in 1966 by the Soviet «Prokuratura» to the Warsaw Central Commission for the investigation of Hitlerite crimes in Poland and sent by this organisation in 1968 to the Vienna Criminal Court of first instance for the trial of the Auschwitz Kriminallager «architects», former SS officers Dejaco and Ertl.

This document, while it contains the word «Ofen» (oven or furnace), and was drawn by Topf & Söhne of Erfurt, the firm that built the Auschwitz-Birkenau crematorium furnaces, HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE KREMATATORIUM. It shows one of the parts of «Entweisungsofen» - kitchen/boiler-furnace ovens or chambers, more hot or very hot air, which were subsequently installed in the Zentral Sauna. The length of a pass of «ovens», 4.74m, is shown exactly on final Bauleitung drawing 2159 of the Zentral sauna. The constructed width of 4.52m cannot be verified as drawing D 60283 is incomplete and probably shows only about one quarter to one third of the original. The two recesses in the wall, one above the word «Waffen» and the other on the extreme left, indicate the positions of the motors - presumably for ventilation - seen in their niches on Photos 35 and 36.

DEFINITIVE DRAWINGS OF THE ZENTRAL SALNA



Drawing of
Bauzeichnung 2153 of 21/43 (PHO reg. no. 209,80/5)

Desinfektions- und Entwässerungsanlage im K.G.L. Auschwitz/PJW
camp disinfection and dressing/drying installation
Entwässerungsanlage/ground floor plan
Scale 1:100

The drawing is in very bad condition with its number illegible (2153)

Drawn by prisoner 578 on 21/43
apparently checked by Japanese and a co-laborer (Z.A. on 21/43)
The unrecognizable cannot be deciphered

Translation of inscriptions:

Kleider-Lager n. Ansage: clothing store and issue room
Warte und Ankleide-Raum: waiting and dressing room
Kleider-Ansage: clothing issue room
Wasserhahn/valveless
Anfuchend/reception
Warte und Ankleide-Raum: waiting and dressing room
Abgang: exit
Zugang: entrance
Warte: waiting
Heizungsbefestigung: pl.
Entw. Kammer 1, 2, 3, 4: disinfection chambers 1, 2, 3, 4
Reine Seite/dirty side
Entwässerungskammer: siehe bes. Details der Fe. Topf: the disinfection chamber see detailed drawing from Topf
Alle Maße und Rohbaumaße und sind vor Beginn zu prüfen/ell in dimensions are rough shell dimensions and are to be checked before work begins
Trocken-Raum/drying room
Hemisch/hemisch
Anfangs/hilfsvorrichtung
Büdel-Raum/hot water tanks
Bäder-B: baths and showers
Scher-Raum/shearing room
Untersuchungs-Raum/medical examination room
W.C./W.C.
W.F./windbreak
Alte/doctor
Eingang für den Arzt/doctor's entrance
Eingang zum Keller/entrance to basement
Stiege/treud

This drawing, has significantly larger dressing and waiting rooms than those of the original project drawings. The circuit taken by the prisoners is thus modified. They enter by the door marked "Zugang", undress, take the «dirty side» corridor, go to the «bathing» then to the medical examination. Naked and shorn, they are disinfected and showered and dry themselves with towels, all under the surveillance of the SS. They then take the «clean side» corridor and wait for their disinfected clothes or receive others if need be, before dressing and leaving through the «Abgang».

Drawing 5

Basierung Drawing 2151-
Desinfektions- und Entwässerungsanlage im K.G.L. (B.W. K.O.L.) Kellergeschossgrundriss
und Fundamentplan/POW camp disinfection and desinfection installation, basement and
foundation plans

Drawn by prisoner 538 on 1/24/43, checked by Depace and approved by Buschhoff on 2/24/43.

[This drawing is not presented as it was copied on inventory drawing
No.3084, reproduced below, with the addition of the «Druckkessel/
pressure vessel»]

Drawing 7

Basierung Drawing 2151 (PMO org. no. 20530/51)

Desinfektions- und Entwässerungsanlage im K.G.L. Ausschnitt B.W. 32/Ausschnitt
POW camp disinfection and desinfection installation, BW 32

Scale 1:100

Drawn by prisoner 538,
checked by Depace and countersigned by Buschhoff on 8/24/43.

This drawing shows the final external appearance of the
Zentral Sauna, as it can still be seen in Birkenau today.

Translation of inscriptions

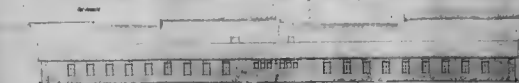
- Schnitt a-b across section a-b
- 5cm Zierkalkputz/orn. Strichkalk putz
- Sperr-Blech/roof iron
- OK Gnländergrund level
- Isolierung/damp-proofing
- Anfeuchter/vent
- für die Stärke der Eisenbetondecke ist stat. Berechnung notwendig/
the thickness of the reinforced concrete slab is to be determined by static
calculation
- Vorfuge 12cm Ziegelmauerwerk oder Magerbetondecke of 12cm brick or
lean concrete
- Vaumauerung 12cm/12cm frost-resistant layer
- Schnitt a-b across section a-b
- Grundwasserpiegel/water table level
- Massivdecke/hall ceiling
- Nord-Ansicht/north elevation
- Ost-Ansicht/east elevation
- West-Ansicht/west elevation

The cross section a-b does not show the additional pressure vessel installed.

The four chimneys for the hot air disinfection chambers and the collective
one connected to the basement boiler room producing hot water for the central
heating and showers and steam for the three autoclaves are perfectly visible.

In the right hand corner of the drawing, handwritten in red is «Geprüft/
checked, 14th July 1943, No. 3412/43 with a date, 16th August 1943 and the
signature of Teichmann, a Basierung civilian employee

Desinfektions- und Entwässerungsanlage im K.G.L. Ausschnitt.



BW 32

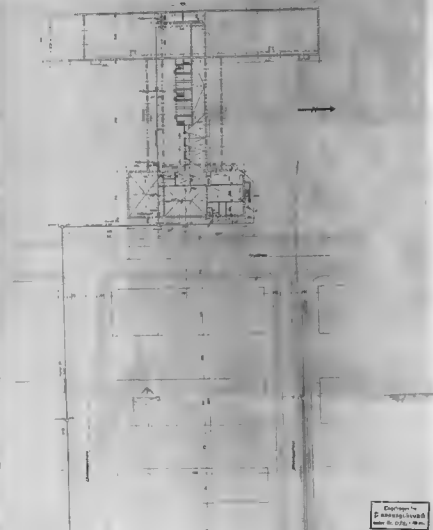
Kanalisation Entwässerungsanlage und Kanal 23 Lageplan 1:200

Drawing C
Basement drawing 1:104

Grundriss und Querschnitt der Entwässerungsanlage für die
Kanalisation und die Entwässerungsanlage
1. Entwässerungsanlage der Entwässerungsanlage für B.W. 52 als Wasser- und
Entwässerungsanlage für die Entwässerungsanlage für B.W. 52 als
wasserrechtlich.

Scale 1:100 drawn by prisoner 558, checked by Deppa and countersigned by
Bischoff on 17/5/41

This drawing, with three cross sections of the disinfection
«ovens» is not presented. It indicates that Entwässerungs-
anlage = Entwässerungsanlage and that the agent used in the installation
is dry bent i.e., very hot air.



Drawing 9
Basement drawing 241 (PMD no. no 2004/0/7)

Kanalisation Entwässerungsanlage und Kanal 23 Lageplan 1:200 (Kanalisation K.O.L.
Effektanlage B.W. 18) (Disinfection of the disinfection installation and sewer 23,
station plan 1:200 drawing of the effects camp (Kanalisation B.W. 18)

The drawing B.W. 18 covers all drainage and sewage work whatever the Sanitätsdienst
construction stage at Buchenau

Scale 1:200
Drawn by prisoners 89711 and 89722 (though probably only the second number is valid,
the first being struck through) on 24/5/41,
checked by Tausch and approved by Bischoff on 24/5/41

Translation of inscriptions:

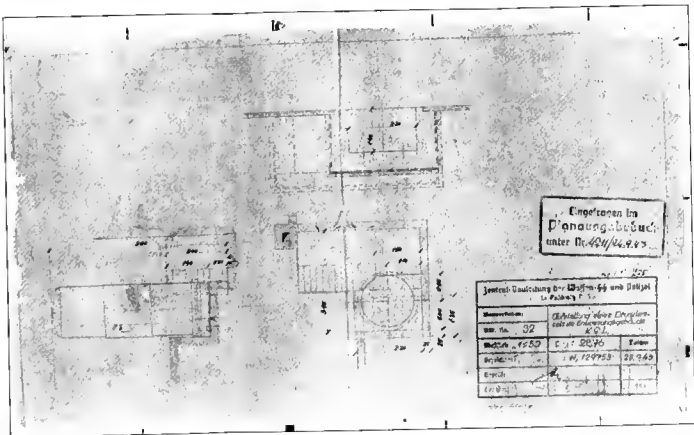
- Prüfungsamt/Manhole
- Stützungsrohr/Support pipes
- Stützungsrohr/Support
- Ringwasser/Ring road
- Kanal/Canal
- Effektanlage/Station/Effects camp road

This drawing is an example showing that each building in
Buchenau had to have effective drainage (evacuation of waste water
and rainwater), a precaution made necessary by the proximity of the
water table and the great number of prisoners.

This drawing served to establish the names of the roads along
which the Hungarian Jews were moving when they were photographed
by the SS in May-June 1944 (photos published in «L'Album
d'Anschütz», Seuil, November 1983).

To look at the left hand drawing, the paper should be turned so that this is at the top, the pressure vessel having been installed vertically. It was placed in the «Heizergasse» situated between deaeration chamber 4 and the first auxiliary position seen on the basement projection of drawing 8844. It is connected directly to the two hot water tanks of the «Puffer-Raum» which supplied 91 showers.

This supplementary drawing shows that the Bauleitung did not hesitate, in order to in its own authority, to modify a construction plan considered definitive. This modification has left traces on the drawings, but there were others that were implemented without any drawings being changed, mention of them being found only in Bauleitung correspondence. Their realization can be materially verified in the remaining buildings or rooms of the camp. The design of an installation planned by the Bauleitung will often remain virtually unchanged in the drawings but there may be many internal modifications during its final implementation. It is only quite rarely that these last-minute changes appear on the inventory drawing (a composite drawing specially produced to accompany the handover documents of a new building).

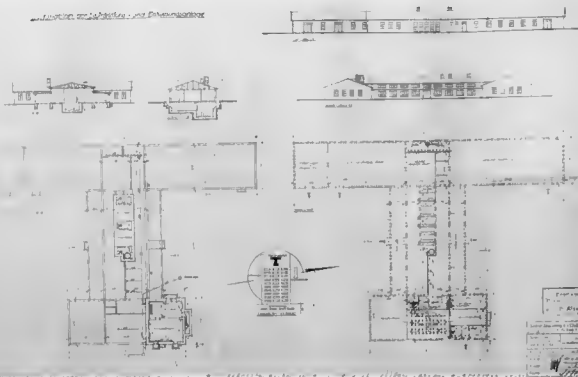


Drawing 16
Bauleitung Drawing 1576 (Pflanzung-Nr. 201114)

Aufstellung eines Druckbehälters für die Pflanzungsbezug in der Druckstation building.

Scale 1:50
Drawn by: 129753 on 2/10/43
checked by: 129753 and approved by: H. Hoff

Bezeichnung der Dezentralen- und Erwärmanlage



Translation of the inscription:

- Schnitt a-b/section a-b
- Schnitt c-d/section c-d
- Ost-Ansicht/east elevation
- Nord-Ansicht/north elevation
- Kellergeschoss und Fundamentplan/basement and foundation plan
- Ofenfundament/oven foundation
- Brunnen/well
- Heizraum/boiler room
- Brennstoffraum/fuel store
- Lageplan 1:5000/location drawing 1:5000
- Kläranlage/sewage treatment plant
- Entwesungsanlage/disinfection installation
- Krematorium/Krematorium (IV)
- Krankgebäude/hospital (B.a.III)
- Erdgeschoss/ground floor (see drawing 5) with illegible number of 2/3/43 for translations)

In the -Boilerraum/boiler room:

- 2 Rückschlagventil 2 1/2" / 2 1/2" non return valves.
- 2 Absperrventil 2 1/2" / 2 1/2" cut-off valves.
- W R /washroom

The ground floor plan shows that the pressure vessel is connected to the two hot water tanks. There is no indication of the steam supply to the three autoclaves. The plans of the basement and ground floor show that next to each autoclave on the dirty side is a drain, covered with a grating, for the evacuation of waste water.

Drawing 11
Bezeichnung Drawing 1084 (PMD) (M. 200/107)

Bezeichnung der Dezentralen- und Erwärmanlage (K.G.I. Anzeichen) Inventory drawing of the decontamination and disinfection installation (Anzeichen POW camp)

Scale 1:200
Drawn by prisoner 23241
and checked by Dyke and Trechmann (civilian worker) on 25/10/43,
approved by Jellison on 31/10/43.



Photo 12 [FMO neg. no. 20944-457]

East side of the Zentral Sauna in summer 1943, nearing completion: chimney being built and roof being covered with roofing felt. In the foreground a Mercedes 130 V cabriolet.



Photo 13 [FMO neg. no. 20945-471]

Summer 1943, the east side. The chimney of the boiler in the basement is completed as is the roof covering. Work is continuing in the main containing the 50 showers and 16 by the first big windows.



Photo 14
[FMO neg. no. 906]

The north and west sides of the Zentral Sauna at the time of the literary spring-visit 1945. The building is still covered with the green and ochre camouflage that it received following the American air raids on the Buna factory of I.G. Farbenindustrie in September 1944. In the foreground, behind the barbed wire, a German 130ccage truck L.



Photo 14 [FMO neg. no. 20945-473 and 474]

Overall view of the east and south sides of the Zentral Sauna in winter 1943. Fencing trenches are being made in the exterior. The entire building is heated, as shown by the absence of snow on the roofs. Double-glazed chambers 3 and 4 are working.

RECEPTION AT THE ZENTRAL SAUNA

Photo 16
(PMD.org n. 2009/077)

This is the introductory page for the photographs showing the construction and operation of the Zentral Sauna in what might be called "The Auschwitz-Birkenau" building, produced by SS Sergeant Karmann for the Construction Management. The construction was not finished by the end of the war, and the photographs show the use of these materials in the construction of the building.

Entwöhnungsanlage mit Effektenbaracken im A. G. L.



Photo 20

"Entwöhnungsraum" (detoxification room) - inscription still visible from the bathing room which precedes it. There is also a third remaining inscription: "Bereitstellung" (preparation) - visible from the examination room and preceding the shower.

Photo 17
(PMD.org n. 2009/079)

"Warte und Ankleidezimmer" (waiting and undressing room) - inscription visible above the entrance door. It would appear that while the 15 photographs Karmann was at work, the group of prisoners passing through the Zentral Sauna was already in the shower room or showers.

Photo 18

The waiting and undressing room is in present state. The tubular radiators have been removed. All the rooms of the Zentral Sauna had similar heating pipes, but none remain. It is in fact difficult to find a working in a building to be there in a corner, a building where the prisoners were generously warmed and the remains of Karmann where they were exterminated (Karmann was in 100 metres from the Zentral Sauna).



Photo 19

Photo 22

Photo 20

Inspection still visible today: "Haarschneidezimmer" (haircutting room), above the east end of the "Entwöhnungsraum" (detoxification room) - corridor

THE FIFTY SHOWERS OF THE ZENTRAL SAUNA

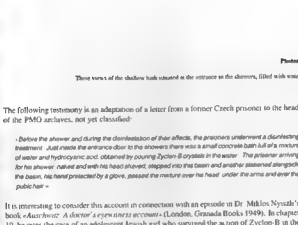


Photo 21:

Present state of the five big windows of the shower rooms. Above, the roofing felt is still visible



Photo 22



Photos 23, 25 and 26:

Three views of the shallow bath situated at the entrance to the showers, filled with water and hydrocyanic acid in which the prisoners' body hair was dissolved just before the shower

The following testimony is an adaptation of a letter from a former Czech prisoner to the head of the PMO archives, not yet classified:

« Before the shower and during the disinfection of their effects, the prisoners underwent a disinfecting treatment. Just inside the entrance door to the showers there was a small concrete bath full of a mixture of water and hydrocyanic acid, obtained by pouring Zyclon-B crystals in the water. The prisoner arriving for his shower, naked and with his head shaven, stepped into this basin and another stationed alongside the basin, his hand protected by a glove, passed the mixture over his head, under the arms and over the public hair »

It is interesting to consider this account in connection with an episode in Dr. Miklos Nyiszta's book *« Auschwitz: A doctor's eyewitness account »* (London, Granada Books 1949). In chapter 19, he cites the case of an adolescent Jewish girl who survived the action of Zyclon-B in the gas chamber of Krematorium II, and explains it as follows (page 92):

By chance she had fallen with her face against the wet concrete floor. That lot of humidity had kept her from being asphyxiated, for cyclon gas does not react under humid conditions.

In other words, Dr. Nyiszta considered that there must have been a little pocket of very moist air around the girl's face, and as hydrocyanic acid easily dissolves in water the gas was absorbed by the water vapour and she breathed a much less toxic atmosphere than the other victims. Of course, HCN dissolved in water remains its highly poisonous properties, as shown by the fact that it was used for deboning the prisoners and by the fact that in the preparation of Launer Carme water that used to be used in pharmacy in the fairly recent past, the HCN content had to be carefully measured for fear of poisoning the patient.

In the author's opinion, however, the survival of this girl (who was nevertheless killed by an SS man shortly afterwards, by a bullet in the back of the neck) can be explained otherwise. Dr. Nyiszta states at the beginning of his account that she was found *« Against the wall, near the entrance of the immense room »* (page 89). By chance she must have pressed her face - lips and nose - against a low air-extraction grill in the gas chamber. Fresh air still remained in the extraction duct and she was able to breathe almost normally while all those around her succumbed to the gas. When the extractor fan was switched on she absorbed enough to be slightly poisoned and suffer convulsions, the state in which she was found by the Sonderkommando men, who saved her only for a very short time.



Photo 23



Photo 24



Photo 25
[FNU arch. no. 20095-477]

A group of prisoners, carrying their shoes, has just showered and is going into the «Treckenraum, R. 5» of drying room, clean clothes. Some of the SS showers are visible and the illumination corresponds to that shown on drawing 3084.



Photo 26c

The exit from the shower area looking into the drying room. On the right the opening through which the SS «corridor» of the prisoners was crowded.

THE AUTOCLAVES



Photo 27



Photo 28



Photo 29

Photo 27:

Views of the dirty, north side of the three disinfection autoclaves supplied by a Minster manufacturing and assembled from right to left 1, 2, 3. They are built into the wall separating the clean and dirty sides and have a door on each side.

Photo 28:

Autoclave 2 seen from the dirty side. In this photo we see through the autoclave to the other side. Dirty clothes were put on hangers on a trolley which was pulled towards the north and put on two short rails. Once the action of the trolley was completed, the operator on the clean side opened the door pulled out the trolley and removed the soiled/soiled clothes.

Photo 29:

Present view of the north side doors of autoclaves 2 and 1. The dirty side doors were rarely if ever photographed during the war because they are on the north side where there was rarely much light.

Photo 30 (FNU neg no 2095/428)

The clean side corridor to the south, linking the drying room with the waiting and dressing room. On the left, behind the pillars and separating railings, it is possible to see the door of one of the Tappi disinfection chambers with its propylide, and autoclaves 1 and 3, south side.



Photo 30



Photo 31 (PMD neg no 20995-176)

The history of these autoclaves south, clear side remembered shown the manufacturer's nameplate 1, 2, 3 from left to right. The views arrived through the right covered pipe above the autoclaves. It is more than likely that it came from the basement boiler. The dark pipe connected the pressure vessel to the hot water tanks. An electric motor enabled the steam to be rapidly evacuated at the end of the cycle (to the left of each autoclave). On the door of autoclaves 1 (Photo 32 and 35) are two pumps, one showing the pressure and the other the temperature. On the table (Photo 35) a pressure is filling in the operating report and there is a clock for timing the sterilization cycle. For those who believe that autoclaves were gas chambers, I would point out that no Photo 31 and 35 there are no gas tanks to hand and nobody is wearing a gas mask. The two short cuts in lines of each autoclave are to receive therolley carrying the effects to be disinfected.



Photo 32



Photo 32 and 33

Present state of the autoclaves, door closed (Photo 32) and open (Photo 33). They still contain the clothes trolley. (A) the auxiliary equipment is missing, probably because it was not replaced after being damaged when the roof fell in. In the foreground on the left of Photo 33, there is a pipe for pumping out the water that due to a rise in the water table since 1945 has flooded the sinkage pits of the double-chamber oven and the basement area.



Photo 34

Autoclave 2, door half open, present state, north side (see Photo 38 for the north side)



Photo 35
[PHO neg no 20991-475]

View of sanicle 1 and Tepf distantness chamber 6 from which effects are being removed. This photo has the advantage of fully encompassing the interior from the Czech former prisoner. He said that most were devastated by foot rot and the ladies emerging from chamber 6 as carrying coats. Opposite sanicle 1, at the left corner of the photo is a heap of what might be ragged blankets, strewn about in -light- and disoriented by steam.

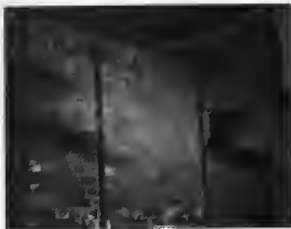


Photo 36

Present state of the room in the backwork which contained the power line the blowers mentioned on Tepf drawing D-10043. Dismantled after the war, they are visible, together with their control switches, in Photo 35.

The Zenzel Lamm had at least eleven electric motors the total power attached to them being 15.0 KW.

THE TOPF DISINFESTATION OVENS OR CHAMBERS

Photo 37



Photos 37 and 38

Present state, perspective and close-up views, of the east doors, closed side, of disinfestation chambers 3 and 4. Chamber 3 still contains the surfacerolley. On the left, below the wooden bar, is the stacking pit giving access to the hearths of rooms 2 and 3



Photo 38

Photo 39

Present state of disinfestation chamber 3 which could take two railcars at a time



Photo 40

Present state of disinfestation chamber 4, the doors closed, allowing the interior to be seen



Photo 41
IPMO ref no 20003 4802

Exit doors on the clean side of the disinfection chambers (probably 3 and 4) with a trolley load of clothing being removed. The people in the doors could be closed by raising the flap and blocking it with a can. These were probably opened at the end of a disinfection cycle to allow fresh air to enter as soon as the extractor fans were switched on. The good quality blankets, reserved for «specialists» (prisoners, appear to have been classified as «heavy» and were hence disinfecting by hot air (one is visible on the trolley). Above left: an extractor fan switch.



Photo 42



Photo 43



Photos 42 and 43

Present state of one half of the double doors of one of the Triple disinfection chambers left lying in the Zentral Sauna, exterior (Photo 42) and interior (43). Photo 43 shows the crude construction of a wooden frame covered with strong cardboard and faced with metal (Photo 42).

PART TWO

FOREWORD

THE SOURCES

List of contents of files BW 30/1 to 30/46 conserved in the PMO Archives

THE SOURCES

Our knowledge of the history of the KL Auschwitz-Birkenau Krematorien comes mainly from the Archives of the Auschwitz State Museum (PMO). For the study of Krematorium I, situated at the Auschwitz Stammlager, the relevant files are BW 11/1 to BW 11/5 and BW 14 (their contents are listed at the end of Part II, Chapter 2 - Krematorium I or the Old Krematorium). For the four Birkenau Krematorien, the main sources are BW 30/1 to BW 30/46. To complement this essential base, documents from various other sources have also been used.

Other files from the Auschwitz State Museum

- BW 1/4- 98 pages. Contains the complete list of drawings (nos 1 to 2040) produced by the Auschwitz Bauleitung Drawing Office for the different buildings constructed or converted in the camp and for the SS during the period 1941 to January 1943;
- BW 2/ series: Contains the different Bauleitung drawings concerned with the development of the Birkenau camp. Drawn as the camp evolved (from BW 2/1 of 7th October 1941 to BW 2/41 of 21st June 1944), these drawings make it easier to understand the decision to locate the Krematorien in Birkenau;
- Microfilm 12,012: Contains the coke consumption for the five Krematorien from 16th February 1942 to 25th October 1943, making it possible to assess the rates at which Krematorium I at Auschwitz and the four Birkenau Krematorien were operated.

Documents from the «October Revolution» State Archives in Moscow:

- Unreferenced. Comprise the handover documents for three of the four Birkenau Krematorien and documents concerning the organization of the Bauleitung

Documents from the Weimar State Archives (GDR), the following files among others:

- Bestand 211, 2/381, 2/555 and 2/555a: Contain documents concerning Messrs Topf & Söhne of Erfurt, including annual reports and certain personnel files.

List of contents of files

BW 30/1 to 30/46

preserved in the PMO Archives

Files of drawings

BW 30/01:	Baulenung drawing 932 of 23/1/1942 Neg. nos 17079 and 20818/3 Entwurf für das Krematorium - Grundriß von Untergeschoß Project for the Krematorium - Basement plan
BW 30/02:	Baulenung drawing 933 of 19/1/1942 [1 and 2] Neg. nos 17080, 20957 [1] and 20818/4 [2] Entwurf für das Krematorium - [Schnitte] Grundriß von Erdgeschoß Project for the Krematorium - [Sections] Ground floor plan [1] Ground floor and sections (933 and 934) [2] Ground floor only (933)
BW 30/03:	Baulenung drawing 934 of 27/1/1942 Neg. nos 6228, 17809 and 20818/5 Entwurf für das Krematorium - Schnitte Project for the Krematorium - Sections
BW 30/04:	Baulenung drawing 936 of 15/1/1942 Neg. nos 17810 and 20818/6 Krematorium: Nord, Süd, Ost u. West [Elevations], North [937], South, East and West
BW 30/08:	Baulenung drawing 937 of 15/1/1942 Neg. no. 20818/7 Krematorium: Ost (Stammager) [North elevation of Kr II of KGL Birkenau, indicated as East because of its original planned location in the Auschwitz main camp]
BW 30/06:	Baulenung drawing 938 of 15/1/1942 Neg. no. 20818/8 Entwurf für das Krematorium - Süd (Stammager) Project for the Krematorium - South elevation (Stammager) [East elevation at Birkenau]
BW 30/07:	Baulenung drawing 980 of 3/2/1942 Neg. no. 20922/1 Entwurf für das Krematorium - Werkstatz Project for the Krematorium - Roof frame
BW 30/08:	Baulenung drawings 1173 and 1174 of 15/1/1942 Neg. nos 17812 and 20818/9 Entwurf für das Krematorium - Project for the Krematorium 1173: Längsschnitt durch den untersten Teil - Longitudinal section through the basement part 1174: [Süd] Schnitt durch Leichenkeller 1 mit Be- und Entlüftungskanälen - [South (elevation)] Section through Leichenkeller 1 with ventilation and air extraction ducts

Kr II	BW 30/09:	Baulenung drawing 1300 of 18/6/1942 Neg. no. 20922/2 Krematorium - Entwässerung Krematorium - Drainage	Kr II
Kr II	BW 30/10:	Baulenung drawing 1301 of 8/5/1942 Neg. no. 20922/3 Entwurf für das Krematorium - Fundamentplan Project for the Krematorium - Foundation plan (First drawing to bear the reference BW 30)	Kr II
Kr II	BW 30/11:	Baulenung drawing 1311 of 14/5/1942 Neg. no. 20922/5 Entwurf für das Krematorium Deckblatt zum Grundriß vom Untergeschoß Project for the Krematorium Connection sheet for basement plan	Kr II
Kr II	BW 30/12:	Baulenung drawing 2003 of 19/12/1942 Neg. no. 20922/4 Krematorium im KGL Deckblatt zur Zeichnung Nr 932 n. 933 Verlegung des Kellertragwerkes an die Straßenseite Kellergeschoß, Erdgeschoß [BW 30] POW camp: Krematorium Correction sheet for drawings 932 and 933 Relocation of the basement access to the road side Basement, ground floor [Worksite 30] (The only known Krematorium drawing produced by Dejaco himself)	Kr II
Kr II	BW 30/13:	Baulenung drawing 1541 of 14/8/1942 Neg. no. 20922/6 Krematorium, KGL, BW 30 Treppe vom Erd- zum Dachgeschoß Krematorium, POW camp, Worksite 30 Stairway from ground floor to roof space	Kr II
Kr II	BW 30/14:	Baulenung drawing 2197 of 19/2/1943 Neg. no. 20946/1 Bestandsaufnahme des Krematoriums II, KGL, Auschwitz Situation 1:5000 West Ansicht, Süd Ansicht - Schnitt I-J Erdgeschoß, Werkstatz Schnitt A-B, Schnitt G-H Kellergeschoß, Schnitt C-D, Schnitt E-F Nord Ansicht, Ost Ansicht Inventory drawing of Krematorium II, Auschwitz POW camp Situation, scale 1:5000 West elevation, South elevation - Section I-J	Kr II

	Ground floor, roof frame Section A-B, Section G-H Basement plan, Section C-D, Section E-F North elevation, East elevation (Two other copies of drawing 2197 are known, one showing the drainage, the other both drainage and lighting)			[Baugesellschaft Konrad Siegmund, Eisenbeton u. Hochbau, Beuthen, upper Silesia, Lindenstraße 38] Neg. no. 20946/3 Vollmar Bohlen Bader Dachkonstruktion Für Bau KGL BW 30 Zentralbauleitung der Waffen-SS und Polizei - Auschwitz Längsschnitt, Draufsicht, Schnitt Hauptdach Schnitt Seitenflügel, Schornsteinansicht, Punkt A Roof frame in «Vollmar» (Vollenecksanfertigung/Füll mechanization?) beams For building POW camp BW 30 Waffen SS and Police Central Construction Management Auschwitz Longitudinal section, Plan view, Main roof cross-section Wing cross-section, Chimney section, Point A In situ static Hinaucht geprüft, Beuthen, upper Silesia, Lindenstraße 46, on 31/8/42. Prüfingenieur bei der statischen Prüfstelle, Beuthen, Upper Silesia, Banat A Budok Static calculations checked by the authorized inspection engineer Banat A Budok of Beuthen on 31/8/42 Received at the Bauleitung on 3/9/42 by Ertl and Bischoff
BW 30a/15:	Bauleitung drawing 2136 of 22/2/1943 Neg. nos 6231 and 20922/7 Krematorium III, BW 30a, Ergänzungsplan Vorderransicht, Seitenansicht, Erdgeschoß Grundriß Krematorium III, Workshop 30a, Amendment sheet Front elevation, side elevation, ground floor plan [Copy of the original]	Kr III		
BW 30-30a/16:	HUTA drawing 109/16a of 9/10/1943 Also dated 25.XI.43 Neg. no. 20922/9 KB (or Projekt) Nr 7015, TB [Technisches Büro] Nr 109, Blatt Nr 16a Krematorium 2(3) Construction (or project) no. 7015, Technical Office no. 109, Sheet no. 16a Krematorium II (and III) (HUTA drawing based on Bauleitung drawings 933 and 934)	Kr II/III		
BW 30-30a/17:	HUTA drawing 109/15 of 24/9/1943 Neg. no. 20922/9 Krematorium 2(3) Kellergeschoß u. Fundamente Krematorium II (and III) Basement and foundations (HUTA drawing based on Bauleitung drawing 932)	Kr II/III		
BW 30/18:	HUTA drawing, no number or date Neg. no. 20946/2 Hand written title: «Krema 2» [Title omitted, should be:] Erdanschnitt Grundriß, Schnitt a-a, Schnitt b-b [Excavation] Plan view, Section a-a, Section b-b [Copy of the original Huta drawing 109/13a]	Kr II		
BW 30a/19	HUTA drawing 109/14a of 23/9/1943 Also dated 25.XI.43 Neg. no. 20922/11 Krematorium 3 - Erdanschnitt Grundriß, Schnitt a-a, Schnitt b-b Krematorium III - Excavation Plan view, Section a-a, Section b-b	Kr III		
BW 30/19a:	HUTA drawing 109/13a of 21/9/1943 Also dated 25.XI.43 Neg. no. 20922/10 Krematorium 2 - [omitted title:] «Erdanschnitt» Krematorium II - [Excavation]	Kr II		
BW 30/20:	Konrad SEGONITZ drawing 1305 of 7/8/1942 (Holzliste 637 to 39) - (Timber lists 637 to 39)	Kr II		
			BW 30/21:	File containing two HUTA drawings: (1) - Huta drawing 109/10 of 13/1/1942 Neg. no. 20946/4 Auschwitz Kr - Decke über dem Müllverbrennungsraum Unterzug I u. II (Pos. 41 u. 42) Schnitt a-a, Türnütz (Pos. 16) Auschwitz Kr - Ceiling over the waste incinerator room Cross-beams I and II (Items 41 and 42) Section a-a, Door lintel (Item 16) (2) - Huta drawing 109/11 of 13/1/1942 Neg. no. 20946/5 Krema - Deckenbalken im Müllverbrennungsraum Schnitt a-b, Längsraum im Müllverbrennungsraum Krema - Main ceiling beam in the waste incinerator room Section a-b, cross-beam in the waste incinerator room
			BW 30b-30c/22:	Bauleitung drawing 1678 of 14/7/1942 Neg. no. 20946/6 Entsicherungsanlage im KGL Giebelansicht, Schnitt a-b, Ansicht Erdgeschoßgrundriß, Fundamentplan Cremation installation in the POW camp Gable end elevation, Section a-b, Elevation Ground floor plan, Foundation plan
			BW 30b-30c/23:	Bauleitung drawing 2036 of 11/1/1943 Neg. nos 6234 and 20818/10 Entsicherungsanlage im KGL Deckblatt für die Zeichnung Nr 1678 Querschnitt A-B, Querschnitt C-D, Ansicht Erdgeschoßgrundriß Cremation installation in the POW camp Correction sheet for drawing 1678 Cross-section A-B, Cross-section C-D, Elevation Ground floor plan

BW 30b/30c/24: Konrad Siegnitz drawing 1361 of 14/10/1942 (Holzliste 659 u. 660) (Timber lists 659 and 660) Bausicherungsanlage im KGL Auschwitz. Bundesquerschnitt, Lamellendach über Schiene bzw. Aufenthaltsraum, Deutsche, Bundesquerschnitt A-B, Schnitt C-D. Crematorium installation in the Auschwitz POW camp. Main beam cross-section, Lamellate roof over air lock and prisoners' rest room, Plan view, Main beam section A-B, Section C-D [Drawing received by the Bauleitung 7/12/42]

BW 30/34A: File containing 14 rather pale blueprints of known drawings. Those marked with an asterisk are clearer and more legible than the originals. The list is as follows:

1. Bauleitung 1678 Kr IV
2. Bauleitung 1678 Kr IV *
3. Bauleitung 936 Kr II
4. Bauleitung 932 Kr II
5. Bauleitung 2136 Kr III *
6. Bauleitung 2136 Kr III
7. Bauleitung 2036 Kr IV *
8. Bauleitung 2197 Kr II *
9. Bauleitung 934 Kr II *
10. Bauleitung 1678 Kr IV
11. Huta 109/15 Kr II (Bauleitung 932) *
12. Huta 109/16a Kr II (Bauleitung 933-934)
13. Huta 109/13a Kr II (7)
14. Huta 109/14a Kr III (7)

Files containing documents other than drawings

BW 30/25: [Microfilm 1322] 15 pages. Correspondence on the Birkenau Krematorium. Letters exchanged between the Bauleitung and Messrs Topf & Sons of Erfurt. Page 15 lists the drawings produced for the construction of Krematorium II (and III) by Huta of Katowitz.

BW 30/26: 63 pages. Correspondence on the four Birkenau Krematorien. Pages 1-20: Huta estimates for the shell of Krematorium II, with corrections by the Bauleitung. Page 21 is the Bauleitung's acceptance of 13th July 1942 of the Huta tender for the shell of the new Krematorium (II) for the sum of 133,756.65 RM (page 22). In fact two mirror image buildings were constructed (Kr II and III). Pages 23 and 24 are concerned with the damp-proofing of the building (subcontracted by Huta to Vedag of Katowitz). Pages 25-51 are estimates for work done by Huta on Kr II and III. Pages 52-58 are construction contracts for the chimneys of Krematorium IV and V between the Bauleitung and Messrs Robert Koehler of Myslowitz. Pages 59-62: correspondence between the Bauleitung and Messrs Konrad Siegnitz of Bensheim on the roof of the future Kr IV. Page 63 is concerned with an order of 16th February 1944 for 2 boxes of acetylene gas from the Vörmittlung Industrie-Gaswerke, delivered on 16th [and which have nothing to do with the Krematorien].

BW 30/27: [Microfilm 130] 41 pages. Correspondence on the Birkenau Krematorien and camp.

Kr IV

Photographs of documents sent by the Soviets in 1945; letters exchanged between the Bauleitung and Topf concerning the Krematorien. Several of the texts are in Russian, having been somewhat roughly translated. The Topf letter of 7th July 1943 concerning the furnaces for Krematorien IV and V mentions their genesis and price and the «Mogylev Contract». Some of these documents, preserved in the «October Revolutions» State Archives in Moscow, are to be found on microfilm M 29 of the Warsaw Central Commission for the investigation of Hitlerite crimes in Poland.

BW 30/28: [Microfilm 1256] 145 pages. Timesheets concerning the construction of Krematorien IV and V; shells by Messrs Riedel & Son of Berlin; chimneys by Messrs Robert Koehler; drainage by Messrs Karl Falck of Gleiwitz; some work on the furnaces was done by Messrs Josef Kluge of Ah-Gleiwitz. The Riedel & Son timesheet for Krematorium IV for 28th February 1943 (page 73) has the entry «Fit gas-tight shutters» and that for 2nd March (page 68) «Floor to be covered with hard fill, tamped down and concreted in gas chambers».

BW 30/29: [Microfilm 1257] 66 pages. Timesheets for work done by Messrs Josef Kluge. Page 1 concerns one week's work on Kr II in December 1943. Pages 2-53 concern work on Krematorien IV and V from 1st February to 22nd March 1943. Pages 54-66 concern work on BW 45 (Hauptlagerstätte) in the women's camp of B.A.I and B.A.III of the POW camp and have nothing to do with the Krematorien.

BW 30/30: [Microfilm 1255] 97 pages. Correspondence exchanged between the Bauleitung, Huta and Vedag concerning the damp-proofing of Krematorien II and III carried out by Vedag. Pages 1-55: damp-proofing of Krematorien II and III. Pages 56-97: Huta static calculations for Krematorium II.

BW 30/31: [Microfilm 1258] 416 pages. «Schlosserei» (metalworking shop) file. Bauleitung orders issued in 1943-44 for equipment from the Auschwitz DAW metalworking shop. Only a small percentage of these orders concern the Birkenau Krematorien.

BW 30/32: 41 pages. Correspondence exchanged between the Bauleitung and Messrs Konrad Siegnitz concerning the roofs of the four Krematorien. In this file there is mention of an «Abfertigungshalle für Transporte/Clearance hall for transports» (BW 46) at the beginning of June 1944 (=Hungarian Actouts).

BW 30/32A: 14 pages. Correspondence exchanged between the Bauleitung and Huta concerning the cost of the shells of Krematorien II and III. The last three pages are letters from the Bauleitung to the WVHA-SS in Berlin concerning the «new Krematorium» (the future Krematorium II).

BW 30/33: 20 pages. Timesheets concerning drainage work carried out by Messrs Tison of Katowitz for Krematorien III and IV. Pages 2-8: Summaries for 2nd to 9th June of work done on Kr IV, BW 30b; Pages 10-20: Timesheets for 2nd to 13th April concerning Kr III, BW 30a.

BW 30/34: [Microfilm 1060] 116 pages. «Krematorium II in III/BW 30 u. 30a. Schriftwechsel» Correspondence on the genesis and construction of Krematorien II and III.

- Sundry letters, notes and telegrams exchanged between the Auschwitz Bauleitung, the Camp Commandant, the WVHA-SS in Berlin and Messrs Topf & Sons of Erfurt on the subject of Krematorien II and III.
- Pages 1-5: Josef Kluge timesheets for work on Krematorium III.
- Pages 6-11: Robert Koehler timesheets for the relining of the Krematorium B chimney.
- Below 1980 it was this file that contained most of the incriminating evidence against the SS regarding the installation of homicidal gas chambers in Krematorien II and III (=Vergasungskeller/Gassing cellars) «Gasdichte Tür/Gas-tight doors», etc.).
- Additional proof is now available from other sources.
- BW 30/34A:** [For memory File containing 14 blueprints of Bauleitung and Huta drawings of the Birkenau Krematorien made after the war for the Soviet and Polish Commissions]
- BW 30/35:** 103 pages
Book of Bauleitung orders to the materials administration concerning the four Krematorien
Covers the period from 12th October 1942 (Order No. 9613) to 13th January 1943 (Order No. 9699)
- BW 30/36:** [Microfilm 1673] 105 pages.
Timesheets for work done by Huta on Krematorien III, IV and V and by Industrie-Bau AG of Bielitz on Krematorium IV.
The first two Huta reports (pages 1 and 2) are separate. They are dated 5th and 6th October 1942 and concern Krematorium II, making it possible to estimate when construction work started.
The other Huta timesheets concern:
25th January to 27th February: Krematorium III;
22nd March to 30th April: Krematorium V;
3rd to 8th May: Krematorium IV.
The Industrie-Bau timesheets, dated 4th January to 8th March 1943, concern BW 306, Krematorium IV.
- BW 30/37:** [Microfilm 1587] 115 pages.
Huta timesheets for work on the shell of Krematorium II, dated from 17th November 1942 to 7th January 1943, concerning the construction of Leichenkeller 1 and 2 and showing the number of men employed and the hours worked per day.
- BW 30/38:** 81 pages
Huta timesheets for work on Krematorien II, IV and V, Riedel & Son and Robert Koehler timesheets for work on Krematorium IV and V.
Pages 1-21: Huta work on Krematorien III and IV from 9th November 1942 to 7th January 1943
Also Koehler timesheets for the construction of chimneys, confirming the use of prison labour by this firm.
Pages 22-42: Huta work on Krematorium II from 8th January to 21st February 1943
Pages 43-81 comprise the «green ink» manuscript recording the work done by Riedel & Son and Robert Koehler (chimneys) on Krematorium IV and V from 23rd January to 10th April 1943.
This manuscript corresponds exactly with and uses the same terms as file BW 30/28, but is not a slavish copy. Reference is made on 28th February to «Gassdichtentüren/Gas-tight shutters» and on 2nd March 1943 to «Gasskammern/Gas chambers» in Krematorium IV.
- BW 30/39:** 75 pages
Timesheets for drainage work done by Messrs Karl Falck of Glinowitz for Krematorien II, III and IV.
The order for the work to be done on Krematorium B was signed by the Bauleitung on 27th August 1942 (page 68). Work on the three Krematorien proceeded as follows:
9th to 19th November 1942 and 13th January to 31st March 1943: work on Krematorium B;
1st April to 13th May 1943: Krematorium III;
26th to 31st May 1943: Krematorium IV.
- BW 30/40:** 64 pages
Huta static calculations for Krematorien II, III and IV.
These calculations were made between 29th August and 23rd December 1942 for Krematorium II (and III) and for Krematorium IV, with supplementary calculations for the roof and chimneys.

- BW 30/41:** 52 pages
Timesheets filled in on a weekly basis by the Topf & Sons foremen working on Krematorien II and III.
Four Topf employees worked on the construction of the furnaces and the installation of the ventilation systems: Martin Holick, Willy (Wilhelm?) Koch, Messing and Seyffarth.
From 7th September 1942, Martin Holick and Willy Koch worked on the foundations and underfloor flues of the five 3-muffle furnaces of Krematorium II. Holick finished on 13th October and Koch continued until 22nd November.
From 4th January to 11th June 1943, Messing worked on fitting the furnace blowers and motors, the forced draught installation in the chimney of Krematorium II, the ventilation systems of the different rooms in the two buildings, and their corpse lifts.
From 1st to 14th February 1943, Seyffarth worked on the furnace foundations and underfloor flues of Krematorium III.
Messing's «diary» formally proves that Messrs Topf were vitally involved in converting the Leichenkeller 1 of Krematorien II and III into homicidal gas chambers.
Furthermore, as from mid-March 1943, Messing referred to the Leichenkeller 2 of these two Krematorien as «Auswickelkeller/undressing cellars».
- BW 30/42:** 2 pages
Letter of 28th June 1943 from the Auschwitz Bauleitung to the WVHA-SS in Berlin concerning the cremation capacity of the five Krematorien at Auschwitz-Birkenau.
Photocopy transmitted on 15th May 1981 to the Curator of the Auschwitz Museum by the Committee of Anti-Fascist Resisters of the German Democratic Republic.
Except for Krematorium I, the figures given are entirely theoretical, obtained by calculation, then increased by about one third.
- BW 30/43:** 34 pages
Documents communicated by the Moscow Prosecutor to the Warsaw Central Commission for the investigation of Hitlerian crimes in Poland for the trial of the «Krematorium architects», Walter Dejaco and Fritz Ertl, held in Vienna at the beginning of 1972.
This file contains essentially the handover documents for Krematorium II, III and IV, with the inventory drawings of Krematorien II and IV in annex.
Conserved in the «October Revolution» Central State Archives in Moscow, these documents confirm the conversion of the underground morgues into gas chambers and prove that there was a homicidal gas chamber in Leichenkeller 1 of Krematorium III.
In fact, the Moscow Prosecutor communicated about sixty documents to Warsaw, those not being handed over to the Auschwitz Museum being concerned with the organization of the Auschwitz Bauleitung, giving the names and functions of those in responsible positions.
[36 of these documents were supplied to the author by the Warsaw Central Commission under the reference II 849].
- BW 30/44:** [Microfilm 1612] 26 pages
Patent for a «continuous corpse cremation furnace» applied for on 4th November 1942 by Fritz Sander, a Topf engineer, and a patent for «cast-cooled grate plates for mechanical grate firing» applied for on 16th November 1942.
These documents were received by the Auschwitz Museum on 17th January 1985 and came from the Justice Ministry in Bonn.
The patent applications have nothing to do with the Birkenau Krematorien but are very relevant to a study of the firm of Topf & Sons of Erfurt.
- BW 30/45:** 37 pages
Documents concerning Messrs Topf & Sons of Erfurt, and the head of their Krematorium Division, the engineer Kurt Proßer. Conserved in the Weimar State Archives (GDR).
- BW 30/46:** [Microfilm 1674] 23 pages
More documents concerning Messrs Topf & Sons of Erfurt. Only part of these come from the Weimar State Archives. There are some pages from the personal file of Kurt Proßer, two Bauleitung letters concerning him (of 29th January and 12th February 1943, from file BW 30/34), the first patent application by Fritz Sander (of 26th October 1942) for a continuous corpse cremation furnace (cf BW 30/44) and extracts from the Topf balance sheet as at 31st December 1941 drawn up by the accountant Dr Zerban of Erfurt.

GENERAL STUDY

OF THE CREMATION FURNACES PRODUCED BY

MESSRS TOPF & SONS OF ERFURT

Brief history of Topf & Sons

1878 - 1963

MESSRS TOPF & SONS

THE FIRM OF TOPF & SONS, 1878-1963

[The following history is a fairly complete exposé of the documentation collected by the author concerning the now defunct firm of Topf & Sons, originally of Erfurt, later of Wiesbaden. Only the essential documents are presented. The author is at present of the opinion that his research into this firm should be pursued, and if the findings are interesting he will produce an in-depth study, fully documented and illustrated.]

A historical study of the firm of Topf & Sons of Erfurt may appear irrelevant in the context of the homicidal gas chambers of KL Auschwitz-Birkenau, for the production of cremation furnaces was only one of the firm's areas of activity, and was in no way blameworthy given the tradition in Germany, a country where, unlike in France, the cremation of the dead is normal practice. In these circumstances it

is only natural that there should be firms producing the necessary equipment. During the Second World War, the two main suppliers of furnaces for the concentration camps were TOPF & SONS of Erfurt and H KORI of Berlin.

Despite this apparent innocence, Messrs Topf & Sons was the only civilian firm to have been directly and willingly involved in the extermination of the Jews in Auschwitz, not simply as the supplier of cremation furnaces, but in the fitting out of the gas chambers in Birkenau Krematorien II and III. This complicity, scarcely suspected by anyone after the war, led the elder of the two directors at the time, Ludwig Topf Junior, to commit suicide on 31st May 1945. The arrest by the Russians on 4th March 1946 of four Topf engineers (Gustav BRAUN, production manager; Kurt PRÜFER, head of the «crematorium construction» division; Fritz SANDER, inventor of a continuous cremation furnace; and Karl SCHULTZE [or SCHULZE], probably Prüfer's deputy) should have led to a detailed examination of the role of Topf in the extermination installations at Birkenau, which would have been entirely possible at the time. The first Camp Commandant of Auschwitz, Rudolf Höss, having been arrested by the British on 11th February 1946, testified before the Nuremberg Military Tribunal on 15th April 1946 and was then handed over to the Polish authorities on 25th May 1946. Judged in Warsaw between 11th and 19th March 1947 and condemned to death on 2nd April, he was hanged behind the «Old Krematorium» in the Auschwitz camp on 16th April 1947. Given the speed with which Höss was brought to justice, there is no reason

why the four Topf engineers should not have had similar treatment and appeared before the Warsaw High Court in March 1947. However, this appears not to have been the case and they disappeared without trace. It is likely that their being charged and imprisoned was occasioned by their participation in the construction of cremation furnaces, not in the Auschwitz Krematorien, but in Buchenwald (near Erfurt), where there were two of the three-muffle furnaces designed by Prüfer. This is the most probable origin of their disappearance and presumed execution.

The fact that an enterprise, generally considered to be honourable and respectable, for the Wiesbaden Chamber of Commerce and Industry in December 1947, not knowing of its darker side between 1941 and 1943, deemed it «worthwhile and deserving of a subsidy», should have got itself involved in the most criminal of all the programmes of the Third Reich, calls for a historical study in order to understand the reasons and identify who was, or were, responsible. Contrary to what has been believed up to now, there is a world of difference between Topf's participation and that of Degesch of Frankfurt am Main, the suppliers of Zyklon-B. Degesch certainly supplied the poison, but the same product was used for BOTH disinfecting the camp and its inmates AND for gassing the Jews, but the managing director, Dr Gerhard FETTERS, did not learn of this «abnormal» use of his product until summer 1944, and then only by chance, whereas Prüfer and Schall [sic] collaborated closely on the criminal conversion of the Birkenau Krematorien, for Prüfer had been designated «technical advisor» for the entire «installations» (the four Krematorien) by the Auschwitz Rassenring.

★

The firm was founded by Johann Andreas TOPF (1816-92), whose initials were later used in the name of the enterprise. It would seem that J A Topf had four sons: Gustav, the eldest, two others whose first names are not known, and Ludwig, born in 1883, who was subsequently to be known as Ludwig Topf Senior to distinguish him from his eldest son, Ludwig Topf Junior. Between 1865 and 1875, J A Topf produced heating installations. Being also a master brewer («Branneveister»), he ran his own brewery from 1875, and although this was regarded as an experimental operation, it was joined by a mulling installation, also experimental, and then by a laboratory, which the eldest son, Gustav, managed and developed. In 1878, two more sons entered the firm and what was to be its final name was duly registered: J A TOPF & SÖHNE. In 1882, the last son, Ludwig (Senior), then aged 19, entered the family firm in his turn. However, during the 1890s, Johann Andreas and two of his sons died. Dr Gustav Topf had also probably died, leaving Ludwig in sole charge of the firm. Early in the new century his wife, Elise, gave him a first son, Ludwig Topf Junior, then in 1902 a daughter, Johanna and finally, on 30th November 1904, the second and last son, Ernst Wolfgang. Ludwig Topf Senior developed the business enormously until his death in 1914 at the age of 51. Ownership then passed to his widow Elise Topf. At that time, the firm employed about one thousand people and exported its products to over thirty countries throughout the world.

Meanwhile, a certain Kurt Prüfer [Document 1], born in Erfurt on 21st April 1891, had been hired by the firm on 15th June 1911 at a monthly salary of 90 RM. He started work the next day as building foreman («Bauführer»). The new man was admittedly short on education, but he had ambition and was not afraid of work. After finishing basic secondary schooling («Realschule»), he worked on building sites from the age of 14 to 17 and there he quickly realized that his rudimentary education offered no future. At 16 he started attending courses in building subjects, then for two years he studied structural engineering («Hochbau») at the Erfurt Royal Vocational School of Building. From the age of 19 to 20, he was employed as building technician and foreman by two other firms before being taken on by Topf. Although Topf by now had a «crematorium construction» division, Prüfer cannot have worked there, for when he was called up on 12th October 1912, he was employed in the mailing installations division. By now he was much better qualified: he could produce design, construction and installation drawings, perform static calculations and install the equipment produced. He was out of luck however, for while he was doing his military service with the Erfurt 71st Infantry Regiment, the Great War broke out on 2nd August 1914. He went right through the war without injury, and by the time it was all over, on 9th November 1918, he had the rank of Sergeant of the Reserve («Vizefeldwebel der Reserve»). The temptation to remain in the army may have tempted him at this precarious time, for he was not demobilized until March 1919, having had to work on wounding up the affairs of his unit. Back in civil street, Prüfer continued his education. From April 1919 to 12th March 1920, he spent two semesters studying civil engineering («Tiefbau»), at the Erfurt National Vocational School of Building. He was taken back by the firm on the following 1st April. In 1925 he was promoted to engineer and was thus entitled to a commission of 1% on any sales he made. In 1928, he became head of the «Krematorium-crematorium construction» divisions. The runaway inflation of the years 1923-24 does not seem to have had any effect on Meiers Topf, thus confirming that this inflation was above all a defensive economic weapon aimed at preventing payment of the «reparations» demanded by the Allies.

In 1929, Ernst-Wolfgang Topf entered the firm to assist his elder brother, Ludwig Meier, and his mother. It was an inauspicious time. The Wall Street «Black Friday» of 24th October 1929 was disastrous for the world economic situation. Protectionism, falling volumes of trade and mass unemployment resulted. In Germany, there were one and a half million unemployed at the end of 1929. The country was on the verge of bankruptcy several times in 1930, 1931 and 1932, and in July 1932 there were seven million unemployed and a further ten million who worked scarcely half time. Nothing was going right: the government was floundering and business was at a standstill. 1932 was a dark year for Topf. There were few if any orders, and the two directors, probably after having made many of the workers redundant, were considering pruning the supervisory staff. Hitler came to power on 30th January 1933, but the situation did not improve overnight and the first few months of the new year remained catastrophic. On 30th March, Prüfer was warned that he would probably lose his job on 30th September. However, the two directors were reluctant to get rid of him and gave him the means to defend himself commercially: on 13th April, his commission was increased from 1 to 2%, with retroactive effect from 1st April. Losing Prüfer would have been a real blow to Topf, as the entire crematorium division was now dependent on him. Outside Topf, competing firms had got to know of his impending departure and it seems that in June or July, Döber of Berlin expressed interest in hiring him. The two directors were warned about this by their Berlin representative. On 28th September, the third redundancy notice was postponed until 31st March 1934. The Nazi regime was becoming established, internal unrest was waning and business was picking up. On 15th March 1934, the threat of dismissal was finally removed. Engineer Prüfer had had a very close call, and he was never to forget it.



Document 1 (Weimar State Archives, Berlin) 2/555a

Photograph from Kurt Prüfer's personal file taken between 1932 and 1940, showing him at the age of about 45, when he was senior engineer and in charge of Topf's Division D IV «Crematorium Construction». Having escaped the drastic redundancy following Hitler's accession to power, and being afraid of becoming unemployed at his age, he subsequently did not become so close to the Nazis as he did everything to pull off the deal of a licence to selling furnaces to KL Auschwitz, in order to help his firm and strengthen his position within it, he did everything to pull off the deal of a licence to selling furnaces to KL Auschwitz, at the same time involving Topf in the creation of homicidal gas chambers at Birkenau.

It is not known when Prüfer joined the Nazi Party [Document 2], but it was probably in 1934 or 1935, after the threat of redundancy had been removed and his position in the firm had been consolidated. Finding himself unemployed at the age of 42 would have been terrible for Prüfer, as so many others are unfortunately finding for themselves today. Only two Berlin firms, Döber and Kon, would have been able to offer him a position similar to that he held with Topf, but as the situation in 1933 was scarcely any better for those two firms, it is doubtful that he could have been taken on. Having arrived at his position thanks to his working life, his way up, he was vulnerable to the face of younger men with better paper qualifications and a lower starting salary. His only hope lay in the new regime that was being established, and he must certainly have known some of the new elite from his war years. What is more, Prüfer fitted the profile of those now in power or close to them, war veteran, self-taught, versed in construction techniques, an engineer. The New Germany was based on people like him, and his involvement in the Nazi Party was at one and the same time both thanks to those who had saved his situation and his licence to enter elite markets.

As from 1935, the German economy took a definite turn for the better, and as from 1st January, Ludwig Junner, Johnson and Ernst-Wolfgang officially took control of the firm. In fact, only the two brothers actively managed it, and had been doing so unofficially for five years (as shown by their initials, «LW» for Ludwig Topf and «ET» for Ernst-Wolfgang Topf, found on the firm's correspondence). The prospects became so favourable that it was no longer a matter of redundancies but rather of recruitment. For example, one Gustav Braun was hired in Berlin as production engineer at the beginning of May. On 30th November, the new structure of the firm was registered with the Erfurt Chamber of Commerce under the number 319A 3334. Immediately afterwards, on 2nd December, Prüfer was made chief engineer («Oberingenieur»). In addition to his new status, because of his experience with the secretariat of his army unit in 1914-18 and his membership of the Nazi Party, Prüfer was made delegate for the Topf personnel, a voluntary post that he did not hold very long.

In 1939, Topf had about one 1200 employees. The firm became a supplier to the Wehrmacht and stepped up the purchase of materials in order to be able to fulfil their army contracts. Given the status of an enterprise «essential to the war economy», Topf continued to be «Adolf Hitler Endowment Fund of German Industry». By the end of 1940 the firm had completed 342,328.87 RM worth of contracts for diverse installations for the army. In addition, there were trade links with «Technoprom» in Moscow. For the two directors, these brilliant results were clouded somewhat by the death of their mother, Else Topf, the widow of Ludwig Senior. By this time, Prüfer appeared to be a man who had arrived. He was sure of himself, confident of his own value and that of his products, often preterry in his manner (report of 15th May 1939 by Herr Machensell and telephone call of 6th July 1940 transcribed by Herr Kleinhans).

Thanks to his Party card, Prüfer was able to introduce himself into concentration camp SS circles, where the demand for crematorium furnaces was increasing for two reasons: high mortality and fear of disease. His first order was to come from Dachau, the camp that had been the first to «open», on 22nd March 1933, but he was not the only one to have been consulted. The camp administration had first asked the design office of an industrial furnace manufacturer, «Ingenieurbüro/Industriefabrik» W. MÜLLER of Ailach, to produce a crematorium furnace, Ailach being the location of the famous SS porcelain factory, part of which was transferred close to Dachau in 1937. Müller had already supplied the SS with furnaces for porcelain. This firm first proposed a gas-fired crematorium furnace, then on learning that the camp had no town gas supply, Miller proposed a coke-fired furnace in June 1937. They seem to have been unsuccessful however, and it was Prüfer who landed the contract. In November 1939, he installed in Dachau a two-muffle crematorium furnace, of a design not found anywhere else, at a cost of 8,750 RM.

Antrag auf Verleihung einer Ehrenauszeichnung

- 1.) Vor- und Zuname des Auszeichnenden:
Herr/Frau/Fräulein:
Name: Prof. Dr. P. Prüfer
- 2.) Geburtsjahr und Geburtsort des Auszeichnenden:
01.4.1898 in Erfurt
- 3.) Seit wann ist der Auszeichnende bei der Firma beschäftigt und in welchen Stellungen?
14.6.1911 - 30.10.1911 u. ab 1.4.1912 (15 Jahre)
Oberingenieur
0.10.1945
- 4.) War die Dienstzeit nach den für die Verleihung von Ehrenauszeichnungen von der Kammer aufgestellten Bestimmungen unterbrochen, gegebenenfalls aus welcher Ursache und für welche Zeit?
(Unterbrechungen der Beschäftigung, die von Willen des Arbeitgebers und Arbeitnehmers unabhängig sind, wie Krankheit, Stilllegung des Betriebes usw., werden auf die Beschäftigungszeit angerechnet).
- 5a) Bezieht der Auszeichnende die deutsche Reichsangehörigkeit und ist er r i e d i c h e r Abstammung?
ja
- b) Ist er jüdisch verstoßt?
nein
- 6.) Ist der Auszeichnende der Auszeichnung a würdig?
ja
- 7.) Ist der Auszeichnende Mitglied der NSDAP?
ja

Stabschef Weimarer Reich
Buchd. 2/555

Erstausstellung am 10.11.1945

Unterschrift des antragstellenden Betriebsführers:

Unterschrift des Betriebsabstammes (Vertreter des Betriebs):

An die Zweite Reichskammer Thüringen
Zweig-Geschäftsstelle
S. S. S. S. S.

24.6.11 - 30.10.12 = 4 Jahre
1.4.12 - 1.4.15 = 3 Jahre
gesamt 7 Jahre

Document 2 (Weimar State Archives Bestand 2555a)

Applicant, dated 10th November 1945, for the attribution of an honorary distinction to Kurt Prüfer, in mark his 25 years of service with Messrs Topf The anniversary was celebrated on 6th December 1945 and on this occasion, the two directors of the firm for they had a 'specialist obligation' to express their thanks and gratitude to him. At this date, the representatives of the 'Auschwitz' market was at an end, but Prüfer's honors, perfectly aware of the 'opposite' nature of some of the conditions, nevertheless expressed their warm thanks on this occasion.

Als oblique question 7 of the application form: 'Is the person to receive the honor a member of the NSDAP (Nazi Party)?', the typed answer was: 'Yes'.

[In order to try to explain the 'singlers' design of this model as compared to what was to become the 'conventional' double-muffle furnace as found at Auschwitz and Majdanek, two theories are possible. First, this model might have been a prototype, designed by Prüfer, experience with which led to the development of the 'conventional' Topf double-muffle furnace as it appears on drawings D56,570 in 574 of 21st December 1939 and D57,253 of 10th June 1940 (see their drawings in annex). However, the delay of only one month between the installation of the Dachau furnace and the drawing for the Buchenwald furnace would seem to rule out the possibility that it could have been used as a test installation. This leaves the second hypothesis, i.e. that the Dachau furnace was reconstructed using original components AFTER the war. The revisionists would have it that US General Ulmer stated in 1960 that the Dachau furnaces had been built after the liberation by former SS members under the direction of Americans. KL Dachau had in fact been equipped with egg Topf double-muffle furnace and four Kon single-muffle furnaces (the two in the center being built as a unit). Kon furnaces with others of the same type found in other camps reveals that they are of the 'Reform' model, costing 4,500 RM each, and are in their original state. As for the Topf furnace, a could be that it had been dismantled, then reconstructed after the war using the metal parts found in the camp (as was the case with two double-muffle furnaces at Auschwitz Krematorium 1) and since no drawings were available it was rebuilt from memory, with some of the components being arranged differently from how they were originally. This would explain General Ulmer's remarks. Be that as it may, the presence in this furnace of metal parts typical of Topf furnaces proves that, reconstructed or not, a Topf furnace had been present in the camp BEFORE it was liberated by the Americans.]

Thanks to Prüfer, Topf gradually introduced their 'crematoria' products into four of the concentration camps. DACHAU was equipped in November 1939 with one double-muffle furnace. BUCHENWALD, being near Erfurt, was supplied exclusively by Topf, who installed a double-muffle furnace at a cost of 8,74 RM in December 1939 and inaugurated the two very first three-muffle furnaces, costing between 11,000 and 12,000 RM each, in that camp (they entered service at the end of August and the beginning of October 1942 respectively). At MAUTHAUSEN, a 'conventional' double-muffle furnace was delivered in December 1940 for the GUSEN annex camp, at a cost of 9,000 RM, then a second, identical, furnace to the mother camp in 1942-43, but this was not completed until July 1944. Finally, at AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU, Topf installed three 'conventional' double-muffle furnaces (the first cost 8,000 RM and was installed in November 1940; the second and third were installed at the beginning and end of 1941, respectively); ten three-muffle furnaces (five being completed in March and the second five in June 1943) and two would four-muffle furnaces (also known as eight-muffle furnaces) at a cost of 13,800 RM each, which entered service at the end of March and beginning of April 1943. Topf's main competitor in this rather specialized market was the Berlin firm of H. Kori, who succeeded in supplying their single-muffle furnace at a unit cost of 4,000 to 4,500 RM to a greater number of camps than Topf. Among others they supplied Dachau with four single-muffle furnaces: Flossenbürg, one, simplified design; Ravensbrück two, Sachsenhausen four; Mauthausen one, Majdanek five, built as a single block, Stutthof two. Thus, during the war Kon built twenty to thirty cremation muffle furnaces in the camps. But with Prüfer's 'deal of a lifetime' Topf beat them hands-down, having installed 66 cremation muffle furnaces during the same period, 46 of them at Birkenau. This competition between Topf and Kon concerned only 'brick built' furnaces, i.e. built in situ, using refractory materials, brick and manufactured metal parts.

However, in various camps (such as Natzweiler-Struthof, Westerbork, Sachsenhausen, Majdanek, Gross-Rosen, Stutthof, Mauthausen, Ravensbrück, Treblinka, Blichhammer) there were also one or two single-muffle 'pocket

furnaces' ['Taschenöfen'] (called 'mobile' because they could be transported as a single unit) with a metal casing (see annex). It is most probable that this low-capacity model, burning heavy fuel oil and costing about 3,000 RM, was manufactured by H. Kori of Berlin. For in the majority of camps where they were used they were installed first, awaiting the construction of a Kon furnace in situ, which formed a second phase of cremation equipment. Some of the metal parts of these pocket furnaces, such as the muffle doors and the secondary draught dampers, were identical with the Kon brick-built furnace, which would seem to prove that both came from the same firm. There was also a third 'dangerous' firm, Düdel, run by Herr Peters (not to be confused with Dr Peters of Degesch), whose headquarters were probably in Berlin. It's field of activity does not seem to have included to the concentration camps, unless it was this firm who produced the pocket model, possibly as a subcontractor for Kon.

This new crematorium camp model opened up an untapped market as from October 1941: the Auschwitz camp. The two double-muffle furnaces installed in Krematorium I were no longer adequate and a third of the same type was ordered at the end of September. But this additional order, worth 9,000 RM to Topf, was thickened compared with what was to follow. On 22nd October, Prüfer met the new head of the Bauleitung ['Construction Management'] at Auschwitz, SS Captain Karl Bischoff. The SS wanted to build another crematorium in the camp, considering that Krematorium I, even with 6 muffle furnaces, would soon reach saturation point. Bischoff was well-placed to know this, because he was sent posthaste to Auschwitz to build a POW camp (KGL [for Russian prisoners]) to hold 125,000 men. The site chosen was Birkenau, but land, but mainly and therefore requiring drainage. The working conditions and then living conditions were terrible and were to remain so. The result was an extremely high mortality rate, which required a modern and efficient crematorium. Bischoff was not yet sure where the new crematorium would be located, but in his conversation with Prüfer it was to be in the main camp. On 30th October, it was included in the estimates for the POW camp at Birkenau. Wherever the location was to be, Prüfer could hardly be less than happy, for Bischoff was thinking big, very big. And Prüfer, encouraging him in this direction, was reflecting on the agreement with Topf for three-muffle furnaces, fed by two big underground morgues. In addition there was to be a single-muffle waste incinerator. The cremation capacity envisaged was 60 corpses per hour, or a throughput of 1,440 in 24 hours. The expected cost of the entire building was 650,000 RM and the minimum Topf could expect would be 5 three-muffle furnaces at 12,000 RM each, making 60,000 RM to say nothing of the waste incinerator worth about 5,800 RM and the sundry other supplies (in fact Topf received a total of 110,000 RM for their installations in Krematorium II as the 'new Krematorium' came to be designated). It is quite likely that at this date Prüfer had not even designed the three-muffle furnace yet. But he set to work the moment he met Kori and Ernst.

When the two men met, Prüfer must have appeared to Bischoff to be a real magician in cremation matters. The engineer designed his furnaces to be efficient and cheap. Instead of simply building single-muffle furnaces alongside one another until the capacity desired by the client was reached, with no possibility of reducing the price except by giving a quantity discount, Prüfer's idea was to group several muffle furnaces in the same furnace and thus reduce the cost of production, and hence the price, considerably. His double-muffle furnace had two firebricks. His three-muffle furnace also had only two firebricks. And as for the four-muffle furnace [which could be twinned to give an eight-muffle furnace], two firebricks were still sufficient. The result was metal parts, economies in construction and lower cost and price. Bischoff must have been captivated and it is clear from subsequent events that the two men got on well. Bischoff could not resist telling his chief in the SS Economic Administration Head Office in Berlin, Dr Ing. Kammler, about Prüfer's remarkable knowledge of cremation

sciences. This information was soon to bear fruit, for on 4th December 1941, Topf received an order from Himmler's headquarters for four-tanned four-muffle (or four eight-muffle) furnaces, giving 32 cremation muffles, for the Mogilew prisoner of war camp in the Soviet Union. On 9th December 1941, Topf accepted what was to be known as the 'Mogilew Contracts'. Following this order and before its acceptance by Topf, Prüfer requested a meeting with his two directors, in order to ask for a well-deserved bonus. The truth is that thanks to Prüfer's designs, the firm was very competitive in the field of cremation furnaces. They could now offer an eight-muffle furnace for 13,800 RM, whereas an equivalent battery of single-muffle furnaces from another firm would cost about 30,000 RM in a month and a half.

Prüfer had negotiated contracts for over 60,000 RM worth of three-muffle furnaces for Auschwitz and 55,200 RM worth of eight-muffle furnaces for Mogilew: a total of 115,200 RM for Topf. The designer of both these models was Prüfer himself, who had worked on them during his free time. On 6th December, Prüfer put his request for a bonus in writing and sent it to the two Topf brothers. On 24th December, an exceptional bonus of 150 RM was duly paid (Document 3). In late 1941 and early 1942, the business deals negotiated by Prüfer for Topf, even though they may appear «special» or even monstrous, were in fact «normal» and in no way reprehensible.

Document 3 (Weimar State Archives, Bestand 2/553a)



50

100



Staatsarchiv Weimar
Bestand 2/553a

Esseff, den 6. September 1941.

Herrn

Bücherei 2. Land Wolfgang Topf

Im Auftrag

Herrn Topf!

Bei der letzten Fahrt auf die 1. Klasse, all die 1. Klasse
8. Klasse. Eindeutungsfragen betreffend die 1. Klasse
meistens meine Freunde, die 1. Klasse. 1. Klasse.

Herrn Topf, die 1. Klasse, die 1. Klasse, die 1. Klasse
besteht aus der 1. Klasse, die 1. Klasse, die 1. Klasse
für die 1. Klasse, die 1. Klasse, die 1. Klasse

Herrn Topf!

Herrn Topf!

(Herrn) Topf, die 1. Klasse, die 1. Klasse, die 1. Klasse
2. Klasse, die 1. Klasse, die 1. Klasse, die 1. Klasse
1. Klasse, die 1. Klasse, die 1. Klasse, die 1. Klasse
1. Klasse, die 1. Klasse, die 1. Klasse, die 1. Klasse

[Cachet humide du secrétariat
de la Direction de la Topf:]
6 - DEZ 1941

Erfurt, den 6 Dezember 1941.

Herren
Ludwig u. Ernst Wolfgang Topf I

im Hause.

Sehr geehrte Herren Topf I

Wie Sie wissen, habe ich die 3 Muffel- als auch die 8 Muffel- Einäscherungsöfen durchgearbeitet und hierbei meistens meine Freizeit - zu Hause - benutzt. Diese Ofenkonstruktionen sind auch für spätere Zeiten bahnbrechend und darf ich wohl annehmen, daß Sie mir für die geleistete Arbeit, eine Prämie gewähren werden.

Heil Hitler!
Kurt Prüfer.

Bauslt LT/ET
RM 150,-
bez. 24/12.41
[griffe]

Braun), einverstanden
? muß bespr. (ochen) werden.

T

Translation:

[Top left. Rubber stamp of the Topf management secretariat, dated 6th December 1941, with the initials of the directors: «LT» for Ludwig Topf and «ET» for Ernst-Wolfgang Topf, and the inscriptions «For reply» and «Replied on»]

Erfurt, 6th December 1941

To Messrs
Ludwig and Ernst Wolfgang Topf

inside the house

Dear Messrs Topf,

As you know, I designed both the 3 muffle and the 8 muffle cremation furnaces, and this using mainly my free time at home.

These furnace constructions pioneer the way for the future and I venture to hope that you will grant me a bonus for the work involved.

Heil Hitler!
Kurt Prüfer

On the order of LT/ET,
150 RM paid 24/12/41
[initials]

Braun), agreed
? must discuss

T

This hand-written letter from Prüfer, on its own, directly proves that he was the designer of the 3 and 8-muffle furnaces and is indirect evidence that he participated in the extermination of the Jews at Birkenau.

The author has made a point of materializing Prüfer's bonus in actual notes below the letter so that the reader can assess the extraordinary deviations and no less extraordinary potentialities of the present era. For there is reason to worry about the derelict casualty involved in rewarding the cerebral effort that made it possible to reduce about 500,000 living people to ashes with two miserable pieces of paper bearing the portraits of two models of German success: on the 100 RM note, Justus Liebig, a remarkable chemist, discoverer of a method of measuring carbon and hydrogen in organic bodies, whose work was behind the development of German chemistry; on the 50 RM note, David Hansemann, Prussian politician and economist, who developed the railways, improved the lot of manual workers and concerned himself with capital management, having been Minister of Finance and Director of the Bank of Prussia.

[tampon humide:] LT vorliegen
ET

Erfurt, den 15. November 1942

Herrn
E.u.L. Topf !

[Cachet humide du secrétariat de
la Direction du] 17 NOV. 1942

im Hause

Sehr geehrte Herren Topf !

[au crayon:] LT vorliegen.

Nach der Absprache mit Ihnen die Ende vorigen Jahres stattfand, haben Sie mir für die Neukonstruktion der Dreimuffel - Einsicherungsöfen, eine Entschädigung zugesagt.
Diese sollte gezahlt werden, sobald das einwandfreie Ergebnis für die Arbeitsweise der Öfen vorlag.
Vor 12 bzw. 6 Wochen sind die beiden ersterrichteten

Topf-Dreimuffel-Einsicherungsöfen

im Krematorium Buchenwald in Betrieb gekommen.

Der erste Ofen hat bereits eine große Anzahl Einsicherungen hinter sich, die Arbeitsweise des Ofens und demzufolge die Neukonstruktion hat sich bewährt u. ist einwandfrei.

Die Öfen leisten 1/3 mehr, als von mir überhaupt vorgesehen war.

Es sind bis jetzt 8 Stück Dreimuffel-Einsicherungsöfen fertiggestellt bzw. im Bau. Weitere 6 Stück sind in Arbeit. Dementshalbe bitte ich Sie, die mir versprochene Entschädigung baldigst anweisen zu wollen.

Steht gern zu Ihren Diensten

Ihr ergebener

RM 450,-
Provision erhalten
12/12.42

Kurt Prüfer

Bischleben

Herrn[ann] Göringstraße 2

Translation:

[Top left: Rubber stamp -Submit to LT/ET-]

[Upper right: below the date Rubber stamp of the Topf management secretariat, as on document 3, here dated 17th November 1942]

Erfurt, 15th November 1942

To Messrs
E and L Topf

inside the house

Dear Messrs Topf,

[in pencil -Submit to LT-]

After the conversation I had with you at the end of last year, you agreed to pay me a bonus for the new construction of three-muffle cremation furnaces.

This was to be paid once it was established that the furnaces operated correctly.

12 and 6 weeks ago, respectively, the first two
Topf three-muffle cremation furnaces
entered service in the Buchenwald crematorium.

The first furnace already has a great number of cremations behind it, and the functioning of the furnace and hence the new construction has proved itself and is faultless.

The furnaces have a throughput 1/3 greater than I had foreseen.

To date, 8 three-muffle cremation furnaces are completed or under construction. A further 6 are being manufactured. I would therefore ask you to pay me the promised bonus as soon as possible.

Always gladly at your service,

Respectfully yours,

Kurt Prüfer

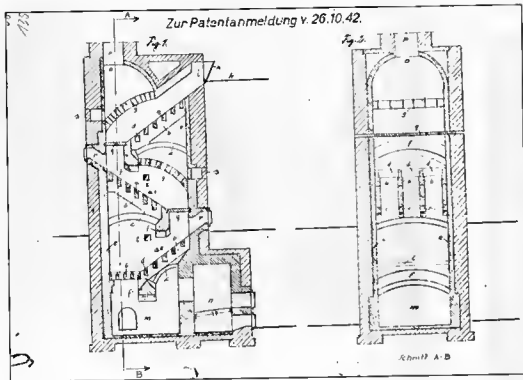
Bischleben

Herrn[ann] Göringstraße 2

450 RM

Provision received

12/12/42



Sander filed his patent application for a continuous cremation furnace in response to the particular situation obtaining in the East: the creation of big assembly camps connected with the destruction and dislocation caused by the war. High death rates were to be expected and the burial of the corpses of people dying from infectious diseases represented a health hazard, while individual cremation was impossible due to a lack of human and material resources. The solution was therefore a mass cremation furnace, contrary to the law, but made necessary by the circumstances.

In order to make a continuous cremation furnace the first idea that comes to mind is based on the production line principle: the corpses are put on a conveyor, pass through a cremation furnace and emerge as ashes at the other end. But such a system would require moving parts operating under harsh conditions, thus subject to rapid deterioration. The advantage of Sander's design is that everything takes place INSIDE the furnace itself. The firebox is at the bottom. The corpses are introduced at the top, one at a time, and slowly slide down three inclined refractory grids under their own weight, arriving at the bottom as ashes. No moving parts, subject to wear, for it is the corpses themselves that move. On Figure 1, corpses are introduced at i, and slide down inclined grids a₁ and a₂, gradually being consumed by the fire of the firebox n. The ashes are collected in u and the smoke is evacuated through p.

This patent application, which is very generalized, concerning only the principle of continuous cremation, may be summarized as follows:

The dimensions of the furnace are lacking, but it may be estimated as being about 2 m wide, 2.5 m deep at the top and 3 m at the base and 6 m high. If this furnace had ever been built, there would have been serious problems with the refractory slides q, which could be used to stop corpses from descending, and the inadequate number of inspection and intervention apertures for dealing with blockages. The scheme was never put into practice, one possible reason being that such a furnace would have been in direct competition with the creations of Prüfer, Sander's superior.

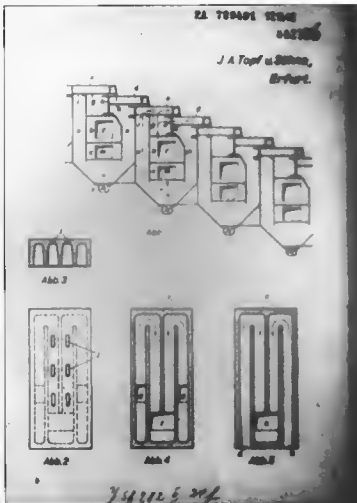
Document 4b

Translation
of inscriptions on the
sketch in the French text:



- fumées/smoke
- corps/corpses
- cendres/ashes
- foyer/firebox

Drawing accompanying a Topf patent application of 18th November 1942 for "Air cooled grate plates for mechanical grate stoves" - It is essentially a wartime (period of shortages) patent, making it possible to fire a furnace with fuel of differing quality, depending on what is available while maintaining the correct heating capacity and without damaging the fire grate.



A K T E N N O T I Z 18.6.45
ri.

VON
Gefolgehaftesbt.

1945 1945 1945

Herr Prüfer war vom 30.5. - 13.6. in Untersuchungshaft.
Sollen diese Tage beachtet werden? (ja).
(P. war bis zu seiner Verhaftung täglich 8 Std. tätig)

Ritter

Staatsarchiv Weimar
Bestand 2/555a

Translation:

Memorandum
from
Personnel section

18/6/45
ri. [Ritter]

[Upper right Rubber stamp of the Topf management
secretariat, dated 25th April 1945]

Subject: Kurt Prüfer

Herr Prüfer was held for questioning from 30/5 - 13/6

Should these days be paid? [manuscript] Yes
(P worked 8 hours a day until his arrest)

J A TOPF & SONS
Personnel Section
[signed] Ritter

However, the problems with the Auschwitz SS did not stop Priifer celebrating his 25 years of good and faithful service with Messrs Topf on 16th December 1943 [Document 2]. At this time the firm had 838 employees, of whom 181 were foreign workers and 160 were prisoners of war of various nationalities. Under the Vichy France compulsory labour scheme, a number of French draughtsmen, (classified as design draughtsmen) had been sent to Topf and worked on tracings in Herr Schmidt's grain silo division. They seem to have been totally unaware that Topf had any dealings with KL Auschwitz. (In 1985, the present author, having found several personal files of these draughtsmen, chose three who had arrived at Topf at the beginning of 1943, and was able to find two of them still alive in France. The first did not even know that the firm produced cremation furnaces and had never heard anything at all about the gassings at Auschwitz. This second had seen a little brochure showing a modest crematorium to be installed near a cemetery, but he too had no idea of any connection between Topf and Auschwitz.) It is likely that the figure of 838 employees given in the Topf balance sheet as at 31st December 1943 did not include the engineers and managerial staff, but this still implies a significant drop since 1939, when there were 1200 employees. The decline is on doubt explained by the directives in German industry to concentrate on arms production, a sector in which Messrs Topf, with their boilers, furnaces and grain silos, were not active.

As from the end of 1943, the sale of big furnaces, like the three-and-a-half-muffle models, came to a halt and one was built in 1944. It is possible that the breakdown of Birkenau Krematorium IV and V, duly reported to the SS-WVHA in Berlin, and persuaded those responsible for cremation camps not to order any more furnaces from Topf. But in addition, the structure of such camps was changing under the pressure of the disastrous course of events on the Southern and Eastern Fronts. The enormous waste of human life was slowed and prisoners fit to work were used as slave labour in the desperate war effort. Camps were split up in order to allow the labour closer to where it was needed. At Auschwitz, the Moneis work camp, created at the request of IG Farbenindustrie, took over from the 'error' of Birkenau and then gave rise to a swarm of subcamps (Nebenlager) on either Upper Silesia. The same phenomenon was to be seen in the other big camps, or despite a certain 'good intention' on the part of the SS to improve, or rather allow others to improve, the lot of the prisoners, who were increasingly in contact with civilians in their places of work, 'bad habits' remained. This, together with the fact that the situation of the country was deteriorating day by day, meant that the life of the average deportee scarcely changed, or even became worse, since he was obliged to work hard on extremely low rations and was at the same time ill-treated outside the factory, often by their own cadres (such as Kapo, Vorarbeiter, Block leaders, etc., who were generally incompetent, cheating and depraved). The still very high death rate meant that the cremation furnaces had to follow the prisoners to their subcamps. Small, single-muffle units were installed, not so much as a function of the number of prisoners, but according to availability and opportunities. Virtually all these late installations were Kori 'rocket' furnaces. Topf was forced out of this twilight market, and itself was about to die in the small crematorium buildings that had been erected in two Auschwitz III [Morowitz] subcamps, Blechhammer and Treblinka, were fitted with the 'mobile' furnaces of Topf's direct competitor, Kori.

On 18th May 1945, the Third Reich capitulated. Erfurt had been occupied by American troops on 10th April (General Patton's 3rd US

Army). The liberation of Buchenwald concentration camp and the discovery of its two three-muffle cremation furnaces for human bones could not inspire the victims to take an interest in the activities of the firm who had produced them: Topf, whose name proudly appeared on a plate on the furnaces. Priifer was arrested on 30th May [Document 1]. ON THE VERY NEXT DAY, THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, LUDWIG TOPF, COMMITTED SUICIDE (the date of his death being recorded on page 3/4 of the Topf balance sheet as at 31st December 1945, drawn up by Dr Zerbahn-Blohm between June and August 1946). This suicide would be incomprehensible if Ludwig Topf had remained simply another furnace manufacturer. His act is a posthumous formal admission that his firm had participated in the extermination of the Jews at Auschwitz, all the more so because members of the firm subsequently named his death on a 'general nervous depression'. It is ironic that the suicide was somewhat premature because Priifer was released by the Americans on 13th June. After his brother's death, either during or just after Topf's June imprisonment, the second director, Ernst-Wolfgang Topf, took the area, justifying his departure by saying that he and his shared to the formalities connected with the succession. Gustav Braun was deputized as general manager.

Priifer owed his quick release to his gift of the gab. Being used to dealing with the military, and with the SS in particular, Patton's soldiers could not immediately turn, and he got the better of them as he had done with the head of the Auschwitz Bauleitung, Buschhoff, at the end of 1941. What made it all the more entertaining for Priifer was that this was new ground for him and his interrogators were green and credulous. All they and against him was that he built cremation furnaces to the camp. He had to show them that his furnaces were simply them for health reasons, essential instruments for the proper functioning of the camp in at the time helped avoid the spread of epidemics and they were certainly useful in the present deplorable state of Germany. As they did not suspect Priifer's role in the conversion of the Birkenau Krematorium for homicidal purposes, it appears that the Americans did not seize the Topf records, which were at that time full of damning evidence concerning the 'ideal of a lifetime'. Since his involvement with Auschwitz was not known, Priifer's arguments carried the day and he soon found himself not only free, but with an order (for a furnace for the town of Erfurt from the occupying power who had imprisoned him).

On 14th June 1945, back in the Topf offices, Priifer destroyed all traces of the contract concluded and the correspondence with KL Auschwitz. He purged his own file, leaving only what could be of use to him in the future, such as the letters proving that he was the inventor of the 3 and 8-muffle furnaces. Having covered himself, he got back to work.

The Americans left Erfurt in July 1945 and were replaced by the Soviets. Priifer did business with the new occupying forces, who ordered two rocket crematoriums (Abfallverbrennungsöfen) from him, one for the Blumenthal barracks in Erfurt (though it is possible that this was in fact ordered by the Americans) and the other for the town of Annaberg. Despite Ludwig's regrettable act, fear began to subside at Topf. In the afternoon of 11th October, a Soviet soldier appeared at Topf and asked for the manager (Braun's Aktennummer 11/10/45). Received by Braun, he then asked for Priifer, who was absent, having gone to Annaberg to supervise the construction of the refuse incinerator,

ordered by the Soviets themselves. The soldier then asked Braun a lot of questions about the furnaces and about Priifer and his position in the firm.

Braun replied that Priifer, being head of the 'crematorium construction' division, was concerned solely with incineration furnaces. The soldier knew that Ludwig Topf was dead, as asked about the circumstances. Braun was hardly going to admit that his boss, perfectly aware of Priifer's secondary activities in helping prepare for gassings, had feared the worst and committed suicide as soon as Priifer was arrested, so he spoke about Ludwig's being very down, mental troubles having followed a nervous condition that had appeared almost a year earlier and was subsequently deteriorated. The Russian then asked about the other Topf, Ernst-Wolfgang. He was not there either, having gone to Stuttgart and Frankfurt to settle the insurance business connected with the succession. The Soviet Military Government had given no permission. He should have been back already, but the formalities were taking longer than expected. The Russian asked about the firm's other products, and whether lists were built in some of the installations. Braun replied affirmatively on this point, and added that Topf activities were also connected with the food industry and brewing. Finally, the soldier said he would be back at 6 o'clock the next morning to talk to Priifer. He did not say about what.

It is not known whether the Russian soldier did return, and if so how Priifer got rid of him, but he remained free. As for Ernst-Wolfgang Topf, probably warned by Braun about this disturbing visit, he never returned to the Soviet Zone, preferring to remain in the West and live with his sister Hannelore in Wiesbaden. The fact that Priifer did not leave with his family during the night of 11th October or during the next few days to join Ernst-Wolfgang Topf shows how sure he must have been of his impunity, having successfully 'misread' the Americans and then purged all incriminating Topf documents.

However, the sword hanging over the heads of the senior Topf men finally fell, and on 4th March 1946 Gustav Braun, Karl Priifer [Documents 1, Fritz Sander and Karl Schull] [Jews] were arrested and imprisoned. For the historian, the trace ends here for the moment. Furthermore, under Soviet Military Government Order No. 124/126, the Topf firm was requisitioned while awaiting a legal decision on its degree of culpability in the concentration camps. An interim administrator, Herr Wetmick, also a member of the firm, was nominated to replace Braun. The wives of the four engineers received payments from Topf for a period of two years, which would imply that their husbands were still in prison AND alive. But, in 1947, the firm became the 'property of the Lands' (Landesregierung Bielefeld), then on 1st July 1948, it was declared 'property of the people' (Volkseigene Betriebs). Times were changing quickly. Topf lost its independence and was attached to NAGEMA (of Dresden, and its name 'Erfinder Maschinenfabrik NAGEMA'). The announcement of this nationalization allowed Ernst-Wolfgang Topf to rehabilitate himself. Admittedly, in financial terms he had lost almost everything, but morally he would have regained his lost respectability. After making contact with the members of the Wiesbaden Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 9th September 1947, and after putting out feelers, he was ready to start up in business again. The plan was to transfer his design office to start up in Wiesbaden, and to subcontract the manufacture of the Topf machines. The technical documentation that he was able to produce convinced the Chamber of Commerce that his project was 'worthwhile and deserving of a subsidy'. When the old firm was nationalised [declared 'Volkse-

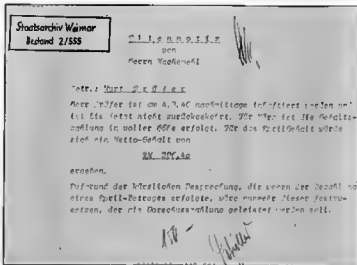
eigenum'], the transfer could be made. The fact that Germany was divided into two Zones made it possible (for Ernst-Wolfgang Topf) to transform the legal liquidation of his firm into 'wrongful expropriation' by a communist regime. If he had had to produce written proof, his deception of the authorities would have been revealed, but he forestalled this by claiming that he had had no advance notice of this 'despoliation' [and for good reason], arguing that there were about fifty other Dresden firms in the same position. Thus he was able to hide the fact that his firm had been sequestered and change his own status from that of one suspected of having been involved in crimes against humanity into that of a victim of the 'Röde'. His efforts to whitewash the name of Topf and succeeded.

Before the war, Topf had sales branches in Berlin, Dresden, Stuttgart, Ulm and Munich. As of June 1948, those of Berlin and Dresden were out of reach because of the partition of the country, and had most probably been destroyed anyway. The ones that remained, Stuttgart, Ulm and Munich, were in the south of Germany. Topf intended to start up a production plant in one of these towns. The implication of the 'new' Topf firm was adapted to the geography of this future Federal Republic of Germany. In the centre was the registered office in Wiesbaden. In order to cover North Germany, the 'heating and furnaces' division was established at Recklinghausen in the Ruhr, with a design office staffed by 3 to 5 people and the possibility of adding a fabrication shop. In the South there was to be a production unit for making and grain processing installations. It is not known whether this making and grain processing installations, but it was certainly ingenious programme was implemented in full, but it was certainly partly implemented in the centre and north. When it was registered with the Wiesbaden Court of First Instance on 16th August 1951 under the number A 4955, the situation of the firm was as follows: the registered office (management, general administration and sales) was now at 5 Wilhelmstrasse, an avenue with greenery, much cleaner than Kapellenstrasse, a temporary factory was planned for Wiesbaden before full implementation in South Germany; in Recklinghausen, the design office was functioning in Illusen with an establishment specialized in the fabrication of heating equipment and furnaces (nothing is known about the size or number of employees in this unit). The Recklinghausen design office corresponded to Priifer's old 'Krematoriumsbauleitung', and on 31st October 1951 one of its engineers, Martin Kleintz, filed a patent application for a single-muffle cremation furnace, entitled 'Procedure and equipment for the cremation of corpses, carcasses and parts thereof'. The patent was issued on 13th November 1952. [Documents 10, 11 and 12] Priifer's influence was still to be seen, even if only in the adoption of his 'guillotine' system of closure for his 8-muffle furnaces. The 'unhealthy' redness of a few of his patents, recalling his role in the denial of the existence of the Birkenau Krematorium, was the final blow of (unintentional) effect from the firm of Topf, which was never to attract further any attention thereafter.

After its transfer to the West, the new Topf was never more than a very pale shadow of the old. It is not known to what extent the younger Topf was able to persuade his former engineers to come to Wiesbaden, and if so how they managed to cross the frontier, but it is unlikely that many joined him. It seems much more probable that Ernst-Wolfgang restarted the Topf business virtually on his own and with very limited resources. The initial registered capital for the new company in 1951 was 1,500 DM, which was three or four times the average monthly wage at that date. He was relying above all on a wealth of technical

documentation, his only real asset, that he had been able to take with him or have collected before nationalization (this is confirmed by the very small amount of Topf records found by the industrial authorities of the German Democratic Republic). The few engineers that he was able to employ must have worked on the basis of this data founded on years of experience. However, Topf of Wiesbaden was never to approach the level of activity of Topf of Erfurt.

Over the following twelve years, the firm seems to have continued more or less successfully, though not with the kind of turnover known before the war, and its low level of activity never seems to have been affected by the threat of a trial for participation in the creation of the Birkenau gas chambers, even though the name of Topf was mentioned over and over again in the concentration camp literature. The Wiesbaden firm was finally wound up on 18th March 1963, when Ernst-Wolfgang Topf, the managing director, was 59 and his sister Johanna, the sleeping partner, 61. «TOPF & SÖHNE» ceased to exist on this date. According to the law of the Federal Republic of Germany, the firm's correspondence had to be kept for a further ten years, until 1973, and the contracts for thirty years, until 1993. As the present time the Topf records concerning their business with KL Auschwitz-Birkenau have still not been found, and it is more than likely that Prüfer «eliminated» them many years ago.



Translation:

Memoandum
from
Herr Machenski

(Upper right: Rubber stamp of the
Topf management secretariat, dated
25th April 1946)

Subject: Kurt Prüfer

Herr Prüfer was imprisoned on the afternoon of 4/3/46 and has not yet returned. For March the salary was paid in full. For April the next salary would be:

286.40 RM

Following the recent conversation regarding the payment of an April salary, it is now necessary to fix the amount to be paid on account.

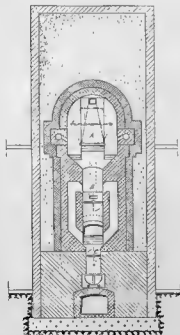
(manuscript) 150.

(signed) Schiller
(Production manager, Gustav Brann's
former post)



Document 11

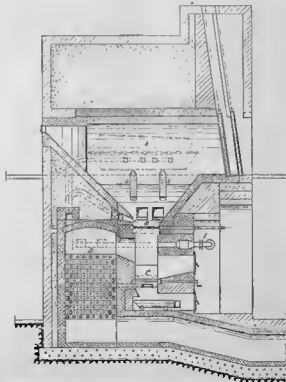
Zu der Patentschrift 861 731
Kl. 24 d Gr. 1



Document 11

Document 12

Zu der Patentschrift 861 731
Kl. 24 d Gr. 1



Documents 10, 11 and 12

[Federal Republic of Germany, German Patent Office Patent No. 861 731 issued on 5th January 1953]

Document 14 is the first page of the last Topf patent, for a single-muffle cremation furnace designed by Martin KLETTNER. The main feature of the invention was the almost complete combustion of the corpse (so that the volume of ashes remaining was rarely enough to fill a normal urn) by a system of hot air recovery. The time taken to cremate a corpse was from 30 to 45 minutes. The guillotine-type closing system for the muffle door was that designed by Prüfer for his 8-muffle furnace. It is not known whether this model, a little marvel of technical design, was ever marketed. It incorporated much of the experience gained by Topf in the concentration camps.

Document 11 is the cross-section of the furnace and 12 the longitudinal section. Both drawings are attached to the patent.

Drawings of Topf furnaces

Three drawings of Topf furnaces are known at present. They are presented in order to familiarize the reader with their working and the location of the different components. It was ten three-muffle Topf furnaces (those of Krematorium II and III, which were derived from the two-muffle models on the first two drawings) that accounted for most of the «cremation work» associated with the extermination of the Jews at Birkenau. A knowledge of their internal organization makes it possible to understand their construction, the way they worked and the repairs they underwent.

These drawings were produced by the drawing office of Topf's D Division, and bear a five-digit number prefixed by «D», Chief engineer Kurt Prüfer was the head of the subdivision D IV, «Krematoriumbau/crematorium construction». There would have been at least three other D subdivisions (I, II and III) designing things other than crematoriums, connected with heating techniques or not, so that the D drawing office, serving all the subdivisions, did not draw furnaces only. This assertion is supported by the rate of production of drawings, as far as this can be calculated, which averaged a little under FOUR a day (1,400 per year) from the end of 1939 to the end of 1941, then fell to ONE drawing a day for the period from the beginning of 1942 to mid-1943. Though Prüfer was extremely active, his work did not require as many drawings as that.

The first drawing, submitted to KL Buchenwald, comes from the archives of the Nuremberg Military Tribunal (reference NO-4444). There is a copy in the CDJC in Paris, under the reference CXXXVIII-129. The other two drawings, concerning KL Auschwitz and Majdanek, are preserved in the Federal Archives at Koblenz under the reference NS 4 Mannheim/54.

Drawing D96,578 (or 57a) of 24/12/39 is of a double-muffle, oil-fired furnace, also available in a coke-fired version [Photo 4]. Planned for KL Buchenwald, it is not known whether this furnace was actually installed. The Buchenwald camp, not far from Erfurt, was «Prüfer territory», for it was here that he sold his first two three-muffle furnaces, which entered service on 23rd August and 3rd October 1942 respectively and were found intact in 1945. While they had lateral pulsed-air blowers, like the Birkenau furnaces, it would appear that they were not coke-fired like them, but oil-fired. The method of charging the corpses at first used arolley on rails, exactly as in Auschwitz Krematorium I, but this was later replaced by a metal «corpse stretchers». This latter method was developed at Auschwitz-Birkenau, in the light of experience, and it was no doubt Prüfer who passed it on to Buchenwald. These furnaces were used much less intensively than those at Birkenau, cremating only 6 or 7 corpses per muffle per day on average.

Historically, it is no longer possible to present this Nuremberg drawing as being «criminal». Produced entirely without any supporting documentary context, as were many German documents at that time, this drawing was supposed to prove «upon facts» the criminality of KL Buchenwald, whereas in fact it was only a pictorial representation of a perfectly ordinary piece of «public health» equipment. Whether used as incriminating evidence or not, the fact that this drawing was retained, certainly with a covering letter whose content is not known, shows the stupid way in which the documents of the defeated were «evaluated» by a tribunal of the victors. It is just as ridiculous as if in the Landau trial the prosecution had presented a catalogue of harmless kitchen ranges and declared that this brochure was obvious proof of the crimes of the accused, and had omitted to mention the purchase of the railway tickets: one return [for Landau] and one single [for his lady victim].

Technically, this was for forty years the only Topf drawing that made it possible to really understand the structure of the three double-muffle furnaces in Auschwitz Krematorium I, even though they had been reconstructed from memory in 1945. There are certain errors and anomalies on the drawing. The height of 2.10 m indicated on the cross-section is incorrect and should be 1.90 m. The vents through which the pulsed air was blown into the furnace (looking like two pins, one entering each hearth from the top corner) are not shown on the longitudinal section. The motors and ducting are not shown for either the pulsed air system or the oil burners are not shown. The longitudinal section of the coke-fired version invalidates the positions of the underfloor smoke flues and the damper. On the other hand, the smoke evacuation path in the furnace, being noised, gives an indication valid for the furnaces in Auschwitz Krematorium I.

Photo 1. 'C'JWC' Para, ref. CXAS-III (29).

Translation of inscriptions:

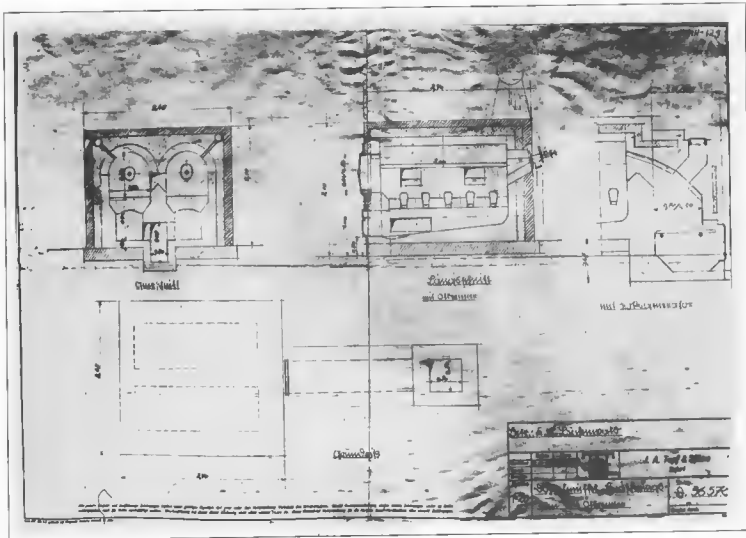
Betr. KL Bachenwald/Re Bachenwald concentration camp

Drawn on 21/12/99

Topf drawing, Scale 1:20, No. D 56 570 [or 576]

Doppelmuffel-Erdsicherungsolen mit Ölbeheizter/
Double-muffle cremation furnace with oil burner

- Querschnitt/cross-section
- Längsschnitt/longitudinal section
- mit Öfenheizer/with oil burner
- mit Koksgeheizter/with coke-fired hearth
- Öl/Fuel oil
- Grundriß/Plan view



Drawing D57.253 of 10/6/40 [Photo 2] is much more valuable. It was found in the KL Mauthausen correspondence, attached to a Topf letter of 23rd November 1940 in which the firm extolled the virtues of its products and assured the Mauthausen Bauleitung that they had made the "right choices", telling them that KL Auschwitz already had a similar furnace in activity and had just ordered another. Topf had enclosed with their letter a drawing of the furnace produced for Auschwitz. The coke-fired, double-muffle furnace ordered by KL Mauthausen for the Gusen subcamp [Lager Unterkruth Gusen] was installed in 1941, and is miraculously still there today. A second furnace, whose metal components were first sent in August 1942 by an entirely deliberate error to Auschwitz and then forwarded, was built at the Mauthausen main camp [Photos 2a, 2b, 3c and 3d].

Historically, the letter of 23/11/40 and the attached drawing of 10/6/40 cross-check with the chronology put forward by Danuta Czech in her «Calendar of events in the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp», where the work of transforming the old power magazine (or dry goods store) of the Austro-Hungarian barracks into a crematorium [Krematorium I] is said to have started on 5th July 1940. The letter indicates that two double-muffle furnaces were installed at first, and this was indeed the case.

Technically, drawing D57.253 makes it possible to situate the underfloor smoke flues in Auschwitz Krematorium I and to see that the reconstruction of two furnaces effected by the Poles after the war is far from being a faithful reproduction of the original state, in particular as regards the coke-fired hearths at the rear of the furnaces. The exaggerated simplification of the cross-section means that the smoke evacuation path in the furnace and the positions of the pulsed air vents remain unknown. The cremation capacity of the Gusen double-muffle furnace was estimated in a Topf letter of 14th July 1941 addressed to KL Mauthausen [although Gusen acquired a very large degree of autonomy from Mauthausen, it still depended on the latter as regards cremation matters] as being from 10 to 35 corpses in 10 hours of operation [see Reinhold Schnabel, «Macht ohne Moral» (Might without morals), Röderbergverlag, Frankfurt am Main 1957, page 344]. If we arbitrarily take the maximum figure of 35, this gives a total capacity of 84 corpses in 24 hours, so that three such furnaces could cremate 252 corpses in 24 hours. Auschwitz Krematorium I, which actually had three such furnaces, was officially stated to have a throughput of 340 corpses a day, or one third higher than the Topf maximum figure. It is impossible to know whether this was the usual SS exaggeration or a true figure.

Translation of inscriptions:

Schnitt A-B/Section A-B

- Einführungstür/Corpses loading door
Ascheentnahmestütze/Human ash removal door

Schnitt C-D/Section C-D

[Plan view - Lower left]

- Schienen für den Einführungswagen/Rails for the [corpses] loading trolley
- Schornstein 10-14 m hoch/Chimney 10-14 m high
- Saugzuganlage/Forced draught installation
Rauchkanal/Smoke flue
Koksenergie/Coke-fired hearth
Schacht/Pyi
Aufbahrungsraum und Leichenzellen/Laying-out room and corpse cells

Schnitt a-b/Section a-b

- OK Fußboden/Floor level

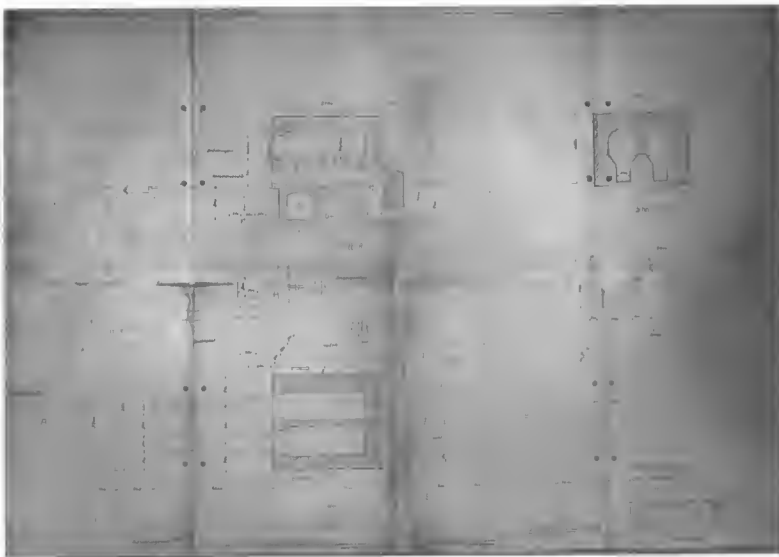
Ofenfundament/Furnace foundations

- Grundriß/Plan view
Holzblöcke 80/140 100 tief einsetzen/80 x 140 wooden blocks set 100 deep

Alle Maße sind in mm angegeben/All dimensions are given in mm

Mathematisches Problem: Nr. 4 Mathematik 54)

Geotechnical Engineering, KL. Aachen
 Institute, SS Construction Management, KL. Aachen
 Top of drawing Scale 1:25 No. 05 253
 Drawn on 10/6/00
 Kerkhofmann, Erderschürungen u.
 Fundamentplanung
 Lake fired expansion furnace
 and plan of foundation



Photos 2b, 2c and 2d (Photos by Michel Felder)

Front (2a), side (2b), side/rear (2c) and rear (2d) views of the Topf coal-fired double-muffle furnace installed under the New Hospital of Mauthausen KL. Its metal components were first sent to Auschwitz in August 1942, where there was talk of installing the furnace near Birkenau Banks 1 and 2, before they were finally sent on to their correct destination. It would appear that they were left in storage for over a year before the furnace was actually built in July 1944. It did not enter service until April 1945, and even then was used very little, or according to some sources not at all. Photos 2b and 2c show the external part of the piled up duct leading to the cremation muffle, but the blower and its motor have been removed. The place where they were installed can be seen on the floor below the duct, where the patch of cement contrasts with the tiled surround of the furnace. In the lower centre on Photo 2b there is one of the secondary air intakes. There were six of these, their purpose being to cool the furnace if it tended to overheat (muffle temperature over 1100° C).

A furnace of the same model had already been ordered by KL Mauthausen from Topf in November 1940 for the Gusen subcamp. It cost 9,000 RM and entered service in January 1941. Its throughput is known from notes made by the prisoners in November 1941, when 600 corpses were cremated in a period of twelve days. This gives an average of exactly 50 corpses a day for the furnace, or 25 corpses per muffle, a rate of roughly one corpse per muffle per hour. This is a modest performance compared with Auschwitz Krematorium I, where the rate was a little over two corpses per muffle per hour. The ratios between the cremation rates of the double-muffle furnaces at Auschwitz and that at Gusen were between 2:1 and 3:1 and those between the three-muffle furnaces at Birkenau and the one at Buchenwald over 10:1. As the furnaces were virtually identical as regards design and construction, they must have had roughly the same performance, so that it is difficult to believe the extremely high rates claimed for Auschwitz-Birkenau. Knowing that the official cremation rates communicated by the Auschwitz SS to their superiors in Berlin (letter of 26th June 1943) were purely theoretical, being obtained by exaltation and intended above all to demonstrate the «efficiency» of the camp, it is necessary to correct them. Even reduced by one third, the «official» figure is barely credible. The bragging SS usually multiplied the true figures by a factor of 2 to 5, and where comparisons are possible, division by something in this range brings the totally unrealistic into the realm of the possible.

[The details concerning the KL Mauthausen cremation furnaces were very kindly supplied to the author by Mr Pierre Serge CHOUHOFF.]

Photo 2b



Photo 2c



Photo 2b



Photo 2a



Drawing D58.473, probably dating from January or February 1941, represented the very latest thing (at the time!) in Topf coke-fired single-muffle furnaces, using a minimum of metal parts in its construction (Photo 3). The muffle door was now of the «guillotine» type. This drawing was sent to KL Mauthausen, probably in connection with a project for one of the subcamps. It is not known whether the furnace was actually installed or not. The furnace characteristics were similar to those of a Kori single-muffle furnace already installed in Mauthausen in May 1940 (Photos 3a, 3b and 3c).

Historically, D58.473, which has nothing to do with Birkenau, makes it possible to understand the structure of the twinned four-muffle furnace [=Doppel-Viermuffelofen] crossed by Prüfer to increase the capacity of his «conventional» furnaces in order to meet the demands of the SS (the final stage of evolution was to be the combination of Prüfer's science and the SS's experience: a circular open-air furnace based on the principle of the cremation pit). Composed of two four-muffle furnaces constructed as a unit, this furnace, known as the «eight-muffle furnace», was to inspire the building of Krematorien IV and V. The recesses for the guillotine doors are visible on Bauleitung drawings 1678 and 2036 of the future Krematorium IV (and V). While no survivor from the Sonderkommando had thought to describe these muffle doors, which differed from those of the three-muffle furnaces in Krematorien II and III, the longitudinal section shows the mechanism.

Technically, this drawing makes it possible to reconstitute the arrangement of one half of a four-muffle furnace (in fact invariably twinned) to give an eight-muffle furnace, which was just like two single-muffle furnaces mounted side by side. However, the location of the firebox(es) [one or two for the four-muffle unit] remains to be determined (somewhere at the rear and to the side, on a lower level than the muffles and accessed by a stoking pit [=Heizgrube]). It should be noted that neither this drawing nor the two others show the paths of the secondary draught channels. It could be that these were deliberately omitted by the Topf D division drawing office, who did not want to reveal all the details of their cremation techniques, designed essentially by Prüfer.

Translation of inscriptions:

[Longitudinal section:]

- Abtierreischieber/Sliding [=«guillotine»] door
- Aschenentnahme/[Human] ash removal
- Rauchkanal/Smoke flue
- Einkücherungsraum/Cremation chamber [muffle]
- Druckluftleitung/Pulsed air duct
- Gestein/[Coke-fired] hearth

[Cross-section]

- Rauchkanalschieber/Flue damper
- Rauchkanal/Smoke flue

[Horizontal section]

- Druckluft-Gebläse/Pulsed-air blower

Photo 3 [Bundesarchiv Koblenz, NS 4 Mauthausen/54]

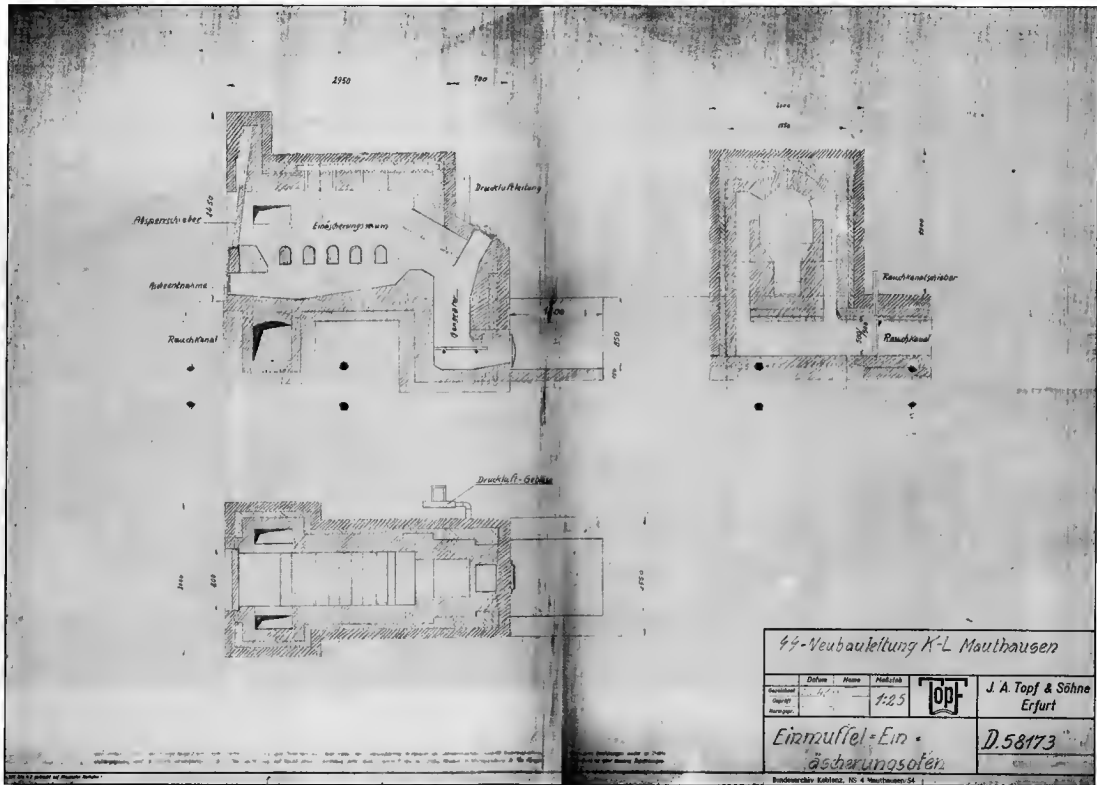


Photo 3a



Photo 3b



Photo 3c



Photos 3a, 3b, and 3c (Photos by Michel Fabot)

Front (3a), side/rear (3b) and rear (3c) views of the coke-fired single-muffle H Korn furnace installed under the Banker at KL Mauthausen, which entered service in May 1940. This «brick-built» furnace has a double system for closing the muffle: a double door, and inside this a «gillotine» plate, the latter being operated by means of a counterweighted handle at the side of the furnace. It would appear that the Topf engineer Prüfer was inspired by this model in devising the gillotine closing system for the muffles of his four-muffle furnaces at the end of 1941. His doors were a much tighter fit, and in general the Topf furnaces were much more sophisticated than the Korn furnaces, while at the same time allowing more muffles in a given space.

It should be pointed out that following the installation of this «brick-built» model, a second Korn furnace, but this time one of the oil-fired «mobile» type (like the one at the Třeštnia labour camp), was installed at Mauthausen. It entered service in February 1942 and was dismantled in 1945, before the camp was liberated.

The cremation furnace at the TRZEBINIA labour camp

[Most of the information in this note is taken from the study by Doctor Franciszek PIPIER, entitled *Das Nebenlager Trzebinia* [The Trzebinia subcamp] published in *«Auschwitz Notizen»* No. 16, PMO Publication: 1978, pages 93 to 135.]

The Trzebinia labour camp [=Arbeitslager], abbreviated to «AL» [Photo 4] was located 24 kilometres northeast of Auschwitz and was established in August 1944 to provide labour for an oil refinery, the «Trzebinia Erdöl Raffinerie GmbH». The huts had been built in 1942 to house Belgian workers employed on building the refinery and, having subsequently been occupied by British prisoners of war at the end of 1943, they were surrounded by a barbed wire fence. Then in August 1944, the Monowitz camp [also referred to as KL Auschwitz III] detached a number of SS and prisoners (virtually all Hungarian and Polish Jews) to Trzebinia, the latter to work on extending the refinery. There were a little over 800 prisoners in the camp in September 1944, with about twenty SS to guard them. This figure had fallen to 650 by the first half of January 1945.

The bodies of any prisoners who died were normally taken by truck to Bialystok to be cremated there, but Himmler's order of 26th November 1944 to destroy Birkenau Krematorien II and III is thought to have led the SS to install a cremation furnace directly at AL Trzebinia itself. The subcamp was therefore equipped very late, at the end of November 1944, with an oil-fired «mobile» furnace manufactured by H Kori of Berlin. The two similar furnaces used in 1942 in the Majdanek camp, had to be abandoned because of a lack of fuel oil, but there was no such problem at Trzebinia, where the refinery could in theory provide all the fuel required. However the real reason for the installation of the furnace remains unknown, for the evidence of a resident of Trzebinia and a corpse transport authorization indicate that the furnace was installed and started work in the second fortnight of November 1944, while Himmler's order was dated the 26th. This would imply that the order could not after all be the reason for the decision to have a crematorium at Trzebinia, and the real reason remains a mystery.

Photo 4



Photo 4
[PMO reg no 6077]

Entrance gate to the Trzebinia labour camp in 1944, looking south-west. The camp comprised six huts, a workshop, a radio/typewriter hut and a cinema screen, surrounded by a barbed wire fence and overtopped by four watchtowers. On the photo, in the right of the gate is hut 1, occupied by the SS with the prisoner accommodation huts 2, 3 and 4 in the background; beyond it. Behind hut 4 it is possible to see the crematorium, used as a hospital. On the left of the entrance, not visible on the photo, was hut 5, more prisoner accommodation.

This single-muffle Kori cremation furnace suddenly appeared in the Monowitz camp (Drawing 5) in the summer of 1944 (according to the recollection of Mi Jacques Zylbermine) and was scored, raised off the ground by wooden beams, in the eastern or southeastern part of the assembly ground for three or four months until November 1944, when it disappeared as suddenly as it had appeared. Transported to AL Treblinka, it was permanently installed in a small brick building, 7.30 m long, 3.15 m wide and 2.50 m high, with a corrugated iron roof from which a chimney projected to a height of 4.80 m (Photos 6 and 7 and Drawing 12). 50 cm in front of the muffle door, there was a frame carrying two rollers to support a corpse charging stretcher of the type used in the four Birkenau Krematoriumen. The cylindrical fuel oil tank was mounted just above the furnace ending to one side (Photos 8, 9 and 10) and the oil was pulverised in two burners (upper and lower) (Photo 11 and Drawing 12) driven by air from a blower situated at the top of the furnace on the other side (Photos 7, 8 and 11). The main (upper) burner was used to incinerate the corpses, while the secondary (lower) one (Photo 11) was used at a later stage to complete the incineration of the aluminium parts (not so easy to burn) that fell through the transverse supports [not shown on Drawing 12]. The burners were manufactured by Messrs Kubitz of Berlin who supplied these specialized stoves to Kori.

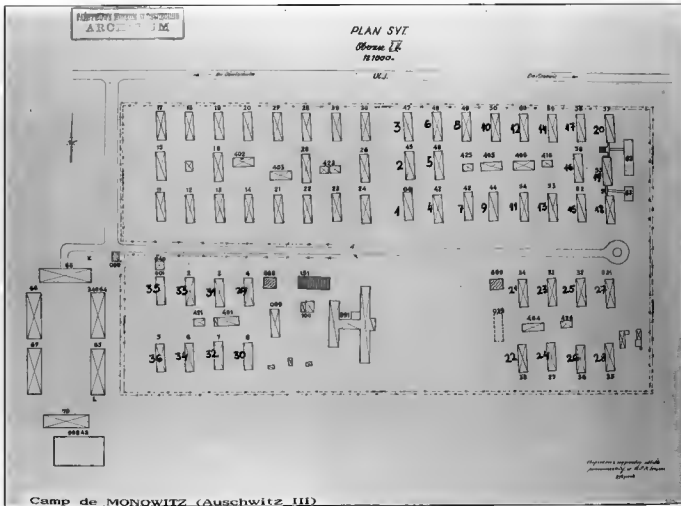
After the prisoners had been evacuated in the evening of 17th or 18th January 1945, the police or the local militia blew up the cremation furnace by introducing two hand grenades into the combustion chamber and closing the doors. The explosion destroyed only the front of the furnace (Photos 7, 8 and 9), blowing the front plate completely out. The main burner at the rear was also blown out by the blast (Photo 11). No human bones were found in or around the furnace, which raises the question of whether it was in fact ever used at this late date. Whether it received enough fuel oil to effect the fifty or so cremations claimed, or whether because of lack of fuel the SS continued to send the dead to Birkenau Krematorium V are questions that cannot be answered at this stage. If the furnaces were used, there is no question of talking about its cremation performance, which could be estimated at one corpse a day, for a would never have operated continuously, its role being strictly sanitary, nothing whatever to do with mass extermination.

Somewhere between 1970 and 1975, the Treblinka furnace was transported to the Auschwitz museum and installed in the «laying-out room» of Krematorium I, where visitors can see it today and reflect on the fact that either it was never used, or it reduced to ashes a maximum of fifty unfortunate Jewish slave labourers.

Photo 5
(PMO neg. no. 6240)

Polish drawing of the Monowitz camp (Auschwitz III), scale 1:1000, a copy based on German registers. Its title «Droga IV Camp IV», refers to the civilian drag routes used by SS Fatters (the firm who financed the camp), who numbered from I to IV the various camps (housing civilian workers, such as those sent under the Vichy France compulsory labour scheme, British prisoners of war, and other prisoners) located on a strip of land bordering the industrial complex to the south. The assembly ground where the Kori mobile furnace was temporarily stored is the space to the right of the cookhouse (Building 39), in the form of an «H».

Photo 5



Photos 6 and 7 [PMO neg. nos 6662 and 6663]

Views of the south end and east side [Photo 6] and the south end [Photo 7] of the Treblinka crematorium in 1945. There is a door in the south end and two windows in the east side. Very little of the corrugated iron roof remains. The damage to the building is no doubt due to the fact that the Germans, after blowing up the furnace, threw into the building another grenade which exploded near the furnace. In the foreground of Photo 7 is the badly damaged iron plate of the Kohn furnace, which was blown out by the first explosion and subsequently dragged out of the building. Also in Photo 7, among the debris just inside the door it is possible to see the handle end of the corpse loading stretcher. Above the southwest corner of the building is the pole carrying the electricity supply for the blower motor. On the left of Photo 7, and between the crematorium and the latrine hut on Photo 6 is watchtower 3 in the northwest corner of the camp.



Photo 6



Photo 7

Photos 8, 9, 10 and 11 (PMO neg nos 6655, 6656, 6657 and 6657)

Views of the inside of the Tozabusa crematorium with the remains of the Kori angle truffle cremation furnace, mass in free plate, in 1943. Photo 8 is looking north, 9 northeast, 10 west and 11 south. It would appear that before this series of photos was taken a start had been made on clearing the debris in search for human bones and ashes, a search which proved negative and which would explain the lack of bars to support the corpse inside the furnace. In the centre of Photo 8 is the base of the chimney, with on the right the fuel oil tank and on the left the blower housing from which the fan and motor have been removed. Busiest right is the corpse loading hatch, which was supported by two rollers mounted on a frame in front of the furnace (see Drawing 12). On photo 10, the deformation of the oil tank was probably caused by the second explosion inside the furnace while the slight gap between the upper and lower metal cases of the furnace was caused by the internal explosion. Photo 11 shows the rear of the Kori furnace, where there were two boilers, only the lower of which remains, the main boiler having been blown out by the first explosion. On the right are the air lines from the blowers and on the left the oil line from the tank above. Closest right of the burner is the oil feed shut-off, while the wheel on the rear end of the burner is the oil flow regulator.



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11

Translation of inscriptions:

[Manuscript] Załącznik Nr 2/Annex no. 2

OBOZOWE KREMATORIUM W TRZEBIONCE/TRZEBINIA CAMP
CREMATORIUM

[Drawings of the building (sections and plan view)]

- Sytuacja 1:50/Situation 1:50
- Wentylator/Blower fan
Motor/motor
zbiornik oleju ciężkiego/heavy fuel oil tank
dopływ powietrza wtórnego/secondary air intake

[Cremation furnace section]

- Przekrój 1:25/Section 1:25
Wentylator/Blower fan
Motor elektryczny/Electric motor
dopływ oleju ze zbiornika/oil line from tank
palnik górny/upper burner
palnik dolny/lower burner
powietrze wtórne/secondary air

[Burner section]

PALNIK OLEJU CIĘŻKIEGO/HEAVY OIL BURNER
Firma KUBITZ & Partner/of the KUBITZ firm, Berlin

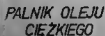
[Scale] 1:5

- rozpryski olej z powietrzem/oil pulverized by air
- dopływ powietrza/air line
- dopływ oleju ciężkiego/heavy oil line
- regulacja wstępna/primary regulation (fuel shutoff)
- regulacja scislejsza/secondary regulation (flow regulator)

[Rubber stamp]

- ZAKŁAD TECHNOLOGII/TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT
Ciepła i Paliwa/Heat and Fuels
AKADEMII GÓRNICZEJ W KRAKOWIE/CRACOW ACADEMY
OF MINES

Drawing of an old fired engine-muffler (mobile). Kari cremation jarriace, reconstructed after the war by the technology department of the Cracow Academy of Mines.

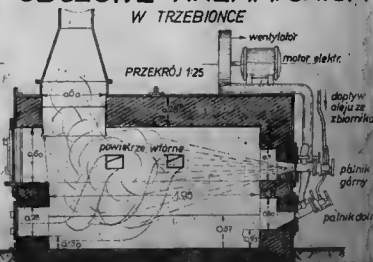


1:5

rozmyśloni nie

2 nowist...

• **Formaldehyde** (formalin) is a potent irritant and can cause severe respiratory distress and pulmonary edema. It is also a known carcinogen.



LAKEAD TECHNOLOGY
Cieple i Półwa
AKADEMIJ DOROSŁYCH
W KRAKOWIE

PART TWO

CHAPTER 2

KREMATORIUM I OR THE «OLD» KREMATORIUM OF THE MAIN CAMP (STAMMLAGER)

The installation, utilisation and transformation
of the first cremation facility at Auschwitz
designated BW 11 and then BW 14
as from September 1944.

INTRODUCTION

Krematorium I, the first cremation installation in Auschwitz, was part of the «normal» equipment of the camp, but came to be used as an experimental criminal instrument for killing people by hydrocyanic acid intoxication in the morgue, which was transformed into a gas chamber. This prototype murderous role was relatively limited in extent, but makes Krematorium I a powerful symbol, created by the shock of the revelation of extermination practised on a large scale, both for the SS who saw this concentration of official decisions and for the prisoners who were forced to work there as members of the Sonderkommando.

Krematorium I has two vital functions: first, its present role of being the only Auschwitz Krematorium where a gas chamber can be visited (in summer sometimes by as many as 5 000 to 7 000 people of various nationalities per day) and, second, its historical role of having been the «test bed» for gassing and cremation in Buchenau Krematoriums of type II/III (Krematorium IV and V being of a new and different type, based not on the principle of Krematorium I but that of Bunkers I and 2).

Unlike Krematoriums II, III, IV and V, there are very few German documents concerned with Krematorium I. These do not make it possible to formally establish proof of homicidal gassing in its morgue and this lack of documentary evidence, together with the present state of the premises, has favoured revisionist attacks aimed at demonstrating that the gas chamber did not really exist. The fact is that while the building itself is still the original one, its internal arrangement, as found in January 1945, has been **restructured** and the installations connected with its cremation and gassing activities have been **reconstructed and reconstituted**, a fact which in the eyes of the revisionists negates their existence.

As evidence to establish the reality of homicidal gassing there remain only the testimonies of participants, the best known of whom are:

ALTER FAJNZYLBERG (alias Stanislas Jaskowski, prisoner 27675), former member of the Sonderkommando who made a deposition at Cracow on 16th April 1945. This was subsequently published in the special number of the *«Hefen von Auschwitz»* [Auschwitz Notebooks] by the PMO in 1971 [Document A is a translation of an extract from pages 42 and 43 of the 1972 edition, concerning Krematorium I]. Following the *«Foursson Affair»*, Alter Fajnzylberk made a new declaration before a Paris notary on 29th September 1980 [Documents 81, 82 and 83, on which his statements concerning Krematorium I are indicated by a double line in the margin].

FILIP MÜLLER, former member of the Sonderkommando, who recounts his period in the camp in the book *«Sonderbehandlung»* [Special treatment], Verlag Steinhilber GmbH, Munich 1979, which appeared in French as *«Trois ans dans une chambre à gaz d'Auschwitz»* [Three years in an Auschwitz gas chamber], Pygmalion, Gerard Waelele, Paris 1980, and in English as *«Eyewitness Auschwitz»*, New York, Stein and Day, 1979. The French version is the one discussed here.

RUDOLF HOESS *«Commandant of the camp, who wrote his memoirs in prison before being judged and executed. The greater part of this work has been published very faithfully in French by the PMO in a book entitled «Auschwitz vu par les SS» [Auschwitz seen by the SS]. In the English text, references are to «Commandant of Auschwitz» by Rudolf Hoess. Translated by Constantine Fitzgibbon, Pan Books, 1961.*

PERY BROAD, former SS Unterscharführer in the Political Section of the Camp, who in 1945 wrote a text that he gave to the British who had taken him prisoner at the end of the war. This document has been the subject of several PMO publications, the only one used here being the *«Déclaration de Pery Broad»* in *«Auschwitz vu par les SS»*, 1974 edition.

Témoignage de "Stanislas JAJKOWSKI" fait en avril 1945 à Cracovie.

étriqués. Les victimes de ce passage étaient environ quatre cents. J'ai commencé de BIRKENAU. Les hommes du Sonderkommando, dont moi, m'avaient vu entrer dans la cour, alors qu'un ours avait enfoncé la porte de la chambre à gaz. Lorsque les hommes du Sonderkommando ont commencé à entrer, ils n'ont vu et je n'ai vu que leurs vêtements dans la cour.

Trente minutes plus tard, on a ordonné aux hommes du Sonderkommando de transporter leurs débris vers le four, situé environ cinq mètres plus loin à partir de la porte de la Leichenhalle, dans une salle distincte.

A BIRKENAU, où j'étais depuis juillet mil neuf cent quarante-trois, j'ai été témoin d'un grand nombre de passages, effectués plusieurs fois par semaine.

En 1944, lors de l'arrivée des convois de plusieurs centaines de milliers de Juifs de Hongrie, les passages ont eu lieu continuellement et même plusieurs fois par jour.

A BIRKENAU, on effectuait le Sonderkommando lors de l'arrivée des victimes et de leur entrée dans la chambre à gaz. Cette règle n'était pas cependant toujours appliquée : Ainsi, j'ai vu, comme membre du Sonderkommando, voir l'injection du gaz par un SS qui versait le contenu d'une boîte métallique noire, ronde, d'un diamètre d'environ dix à douze centimètres et d'une hauteur d'environ vingt centimètres dans une espèce de petite chaudière ou tube qui transportait de quelques décimètres du gaz de la chambre à gaz.

Le SS portait un masque. Il a refusé aussitôt l'ouverture par lequel il versait le contenu de la boîte.

Le Sonderkommando a commencé à sortir les cadavres de la chambre à gaz quinze à vingt minutes après le versement par le SS du contenu de la boîte. Les portes de la chambre à gaz étaient ouvertes. Il y avait purifié par la ventilation. Lorsqu'on commençait à sortir les cadavres se trouvant près de la porte, on n'apportait aucune précaution, on travaillait dans la chambre, on avait quelquefois petit lavement.

Je tiens à ajouter les précisions suivantes : J'ai vu des hommes du Sonderkommando arracher de la chambre à gaz des cadavres les dents et les poignets au mur. Les cadavres ont été lavés, une voiture enlevait les vêtements et tout ce qui restait de "l'ours".

Je tiens à ajouter que les Juifs hongrois qui ont été gazés en 1944 entraient dans la chambre à gaz, sans avoir les cheveux tondus.

Je précise que j'ai été déporté à AUSCHWITZ sous le nom de "Stanisław JAKUBOWSKI". J'ai fait tout ce que j'ai pu en avril 1945, déclaration devant un magistrat de CRACOVIE membre de la Commission d'investigation sur les crimes perpétrés par les hitlériens en POLOGNE. Cette déclaration a été publiée aux Cahiers d'AUSCHWITZ.

FAJNZYBERG.

Je lui ai indiqué que ma véritable identité était Alter

entendu sur mon

Mon numéro matricule du camp de AUSCHWITZ - BIRKENAU, bras gauche et sur sa poitrine est "27.675".

Telles sont mes déclarations.

DONT ACTE, sur trois pages.

Fait et passé à PARIS, Avenue de Clichy n° 34 (XVIII°)

En l'étude du notaire soussigné

L'AN MIL NEUF CENT QUATRE VINGT

Le vingt-neuf septembre

Les lectures faites par le notaire soussigné et après que le comparant a été déclaré par lui dans les déclarations ci-dessus, en l'état ci-dessus, a signé avec le notaire.

Selvant les signatures.

En marge on trouve la mention :

ENREGISTRE à la Recette Principale des Grandes

Carrières,

PARIS, le 05/10/1980 Bord. 227 Case 1

RECU : DEUX CENTS FRANCS.

? EXPEDITION

contenu sur trois pages, contenant

un certain nombre de renvois approximatifs, au nom des

entières et au nom des mots n'ont été obtenus

par l'usage du "XÉROGRAPHIQUE XEROX 3000" agréé par

arrêté du Ministère de la Justice du six septembre mil neuf

cent soixante huit

Thirty minutes later, the Sonderkommando was ordered to transport the corpses to the furnace situated about five metres from the door of the Leichenhalle, in a separate room.

In Birkenau where I was from July 1943, I witnessed a great many passages carried out several times a week.

In 1944, when convoys brought hundreds of thousands of Jews from Hungary, there were passages every day, and even several times a day.

In Birkenau, the Sonderkommando was ordered up when the victims arrived and entered the gas chamber.

This rule was not always applied, however.

Thus as a member of the Sonderkommando, I was able to see the injection of gas by an SS man who poured the contents of a black can of diameter about 10 to 12 centimetres and about 25 centimetres high, into a kind of small chimney or tube which projected a few tens of centimetres from the roof of the gas chamber.

The SS man wore a mask. He immediately closed the opening through which he poured the contents of the can.

The Sonderkommando started to remove the bodies from the gas chamber 15 to 20 minutes after the SS man had poured in the contents of the can. The doors of the gas chamber were open. The air was purified by ventilation. When we started to remove the bodies near the door, we felt no ill-effects. Working in the centre of the chamber, our eyes sometimes watered.

I would add the following details:

I saw Sonderkommando men put gold teeth and rings from the mouths of the corpses. When the corpses had been removed, a vehicle took away the clothes and all that was left.

I feel I should add that the Hungarian Jews who were gassed in 1944 entered the gas chamber without having their hair shaved.

Finally that I was deported to Auschwitz under the name of "Stanisław JAKUBOWSKI". In April 1945 I made a declaration under that name before a Cracow magistrate, a member of the Central Commission for the Investigation of Hitlerian Crimes in Poland, a declaration that was published in the Auschwitz Newsletter.

I indicated to him that my true identity was Alter Fajnzylberg. My registration number in the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp, tattooed on my left arm and my chest, is 27.675.

Such is my declaration.

(Declaration signed before a notary on 29th September 1980 and officially deposited in Paris on 3rd October 1980)

Verwaltung
Konzentrationslager Auschwitz
Telefon Auschwitz Nr. 65

Rechn.-Jahr 1942
Kap. 21/7b Tit.

Bestellschein Nr. 451 Abt. V4

Zentral-Bulleitung d. Waffen- u. Polizei Auschwitz.
Firma

Sie werden gebeten, nachstehend aufgeführte Waren zu liefern:

Menge	Bezeichnung	Preis	
		einzeln	gesamt
1.	Den Kamin und das Motorenhaus des Krematoriums instandzusetzen.		
2.	Anbringung einer Eisentüre.		

Lubitz, Fabrik und Material
Kaufmann Haller
16. 8. 1942
10/1

Auschwitz, den 13.5. 1942

Der Leiter der Verwaltung
des Konzentrationslagers Auschwitz

15. MAI 1942

Die Bedingungen auf der Rückseite sind zu beachten

Document C1a (Dossier P.M.O. BW II-5, p. 3)

Administration Accounting Year: 1942
of Auschwitz Concentration Camp
Telephone Auschwitz no 65

Chap 21/7b TR....

Order No 451 Div. V4

Auschwitz Waffen SS and Police Central Construction Management.
You are requested to deliver the goods listed below.

Quantity	Designation	Price	
		Unit	Total
1	Repair crematorium chimney and motor room.		
2	Install a steel door.		
	[hand written] Lubitz, execute immediately and draw up an invoice		
	Kg Lubitz 20/5/42		
	Auschwitz, 13 5 42		
	Head of the Administration of Auschwitz Concentration Camp		
	Signed Rick SS Lieutenant		

The conditions set out on the back of this order are to be observed.

Like all human testimony, these accounts frequently contain unlikely affirmations, and a critical comparison, for example on the equipment of the gas chamber, gives contradictory results.

1. **ALTER FAJNZYLBERG** affirms that an incineration muffle in one of the three furnaces (the mouth opening was 0.60 x 0.60m, and the internal dimensions 0.70 x 0.70 x 2.10m, or 1.029m³ according to Topf drawing 557253) could «swallow» TWELVE bodies at a time (which is mathematically possible, but not practically), but that normally five were «fitted in». The latter figure is closer to reality which was on average three (normal adult) bodies at a time. The witness clearly gave way here to the general tendency to exaggerate at that time (in the years 1945-50). His description of the equipment of Krematorium I is valid (though the building had been converted into an air raid shelter and the furnaces had been removed), except for its length (50m) and the dimensions given to its gas chamber: 30 x 5m (150m²) instead of 17 x 4.6m (78.2m²). This error in estimation is more than excusable, in particular as the PMO, in a note to his figures [30 x 5m], indicates the following dimensions: 17.00 x 4.50m giving a floor area of 65m² [1], an area regularly reproduced in the early histories of the camp, but not corresponding to the facts. What is remarkable in his new declaration in September 1980 is that the witness repeats exactly the same dimensions as he did in April 1945, a proof of the sincerity and authenticity of his statements.
2. **FILIP MÜLLER** wrote that in May 1942 (the date of his arrival at the camp, page 23), the chimney of Krematorium I was of circular section (p. 37) [an initial state confirmed verbally to the author in 1981 by a former prisoner, Mrs. Herzig, No. 68919, who lived in the town of Auschwitz before being interned in the camp]. The Topf

Brüder
Rehabilitations
Anatomie

Ansch. 1. 2. 11. 1942

Rehabilitations- und Anatomie

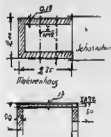
In der Kaserne in der 2. 11. 1942 wurde der Kanal repariert. Im Hofbereich wurden Wände aufgebaut, die Lücke hergestellt, die im Kaserne repariert wurde.

Rehabilitations- 3 Häuser
1. Hilfskaserne
5 Häftlinge

Feststellung: 14. 11. 1942.

Arbeitszeit: 2. 11. 1942 = 32 Stunden

Materialien:



Rehabilitations 2.25 x 2.25 = 5.0625 m²
Kamin 0.9 x 0.9 = 0.81 m²
Gesamt 5.0625 + 0.81 = 5.8725 m²

Rehabilitations 2.25 x 2.25 = 5.0625 m²
Kamin 0.9 x 0.9 = 0.81 m²

(Rehabilitations)

ANATOMIE UND REHABILITATION
ARCHIVUM

An. 1. 11. 1942

Construction and modification of
buildings outside the camp

Auschwitz, 20th May 1942

Crematorium

Description of building work done

In the crematorium, an underfloor flue was repaired. In the motor room, walls were built, a ceiling made, and the internal walls repaired and plastered.

Labour used:

3 bricklayers
2 labourers
5 prisoners

Date work done:

14 and 15/5/42

Hours worked:

2 x 11 h. = 22 hours

Materials used

Walls (2 x 2.22 + 2.10.90 + 0.50 x 0.13 = 0.59 m²)

[SKETCH]

Vault 2 x 2.35 x 0.13 = 0.61 m²

chimney

= 1.20 m²

motor room

Cement mortar used in the
brickwork (1:3) 1.20 x 0.33 = 0.40 m²

(PTO)

drawings for the installation of the third furnace (=new Ofen/new furnaces) 59042 a and b of 25th September 1941 indicate that the chimney was a square section and thus had already been rebuilt. This casts a doubt on the presence of the witness during the fire that he describes (pages 45 and 46) and the resulting damage to the chimney that had to be rebuilt more solidly, hence of square section. However, there is a series of documents concerned with an order of 13th May 1942 by the camp administration [Documents C1a and C1b] requesting the repair of the Crematorium II chimney (first item), which is wrong, because the description of the work [Documents C2a and C2b, C3a and C3b] and the final report [Documents C2a and C2b] show that the repair was actually only on an underground flue (=Kaminsteckkanal). These documents fully confirm the witness's account of the accident (jets of cold water on fire bricks heated to a temperature of 800-1000°C), but negate the existence of a "round" chimney in May 1942, because even the sketch on the description of the work (C2a) shows it to be square.

This error on the form of the Krematorium II chimney, first noted by the Auschwitz Museum, is minor, since the damage caused by the accident is confirmed by the repair documents. F. Müller, who can be seen in Claude Lanzmann's film "SHOAH" (script published by Fayard in 1985, where he states on page 73 that other firebricks exploded suddenly, and the underground) flues linking the Auschwitz Krematorium to the chimney were obstructed - an explanation perfectly in line with the repair documents) is a valuable witness with a "technical" eye, even if like anyone else, he is sometimes mistaken (on facts going back 40 years!).

3. RUDOLF HOESS describes one of the first gasings [of 900 Russian prisoners of war] at which he was present, in the morgue of Krematorium I (page 164). Two details are unlikely: the squeezing of 900 persons into 78 m² and the "rapid" drilling of several holes in the ceiling to pour the Zyklon-B. Drilling through 10 to 15cm of concrete was not a job that could be done on the spur of the moment.

Bau 2 x 2 x 2,35 = 12 x 0,11 x 0,27 x 0,27 = 0,25 m³
 0,25 x 0,08 x 0,11 = 0,0025 m³

Ziegel 131 x 40 x 14 cm 500 Stück

Cement (0,40 x 0,17) x 472 = 270 kg

zur Reparatur der Tür 50 kg

Verbleib 36 kg

350 kg - 7 Sack anm.

2 Eisenträger I Nr 12 zusammen 4,50 t fbr.

II Vorrätigesehene Reparatur einer Eisenblech 65/195 cm 2

III Reparatur des Harnsteinunterkanals.
 Schmothkorne 50 Stück
 Schmothmehl 50 kg

Oberecapo Maurer 17401

Krom

FAHRTZEUG MUSEUM D. DEUTSCHEN
 ABORTIVUM

An I, RW 11/5

Plaster (2 x 2 x 2 35) + (2 22 x 2 + 1 87 x 0 70) = 8 55 m²

8 55 x 0 02 = 0 17 m³

Bricks: 1 21 x 400 = 484 or approximately 500 bricks

Cement (0 40 + 0 17) x 472 = 270 kg

For repairing the door = 50 kg

Waste = 30 kg

= 350 kg = 7 bags cement

I 2 Steel I beams, no 12, together 4 50 linear metres

II Expected repair of a steel door 65/195 cm

III Repair of underground chimney flue

Firebricks 50 bricks

Refractory cement 50 kg

Oberecapo bricklayer 17401

Signature illegible

Hoss participated in the «special actions» strictly in accordance with his obligations and occupied his mind with the almost insurmountable tasks imposed by the exponential growth of his camp, thus not allowing his conscience to dwell on the moral questions. He was present, without seeing. In the author's opinion, this attitude explains the involuntary errors found throughout his autobiography.

4. **PÉRY BROAD's** testimony raises problems yet to be solved. His account of the various «activities» of the camp is one of the most striking. But the form and tone of his declaration sound false. His writings cannot be the faithful reflection of the thoughts of an SS man and indeed reading them gives the impression that they were written by a former prisoner. Pages 148 and 149 and 153 to 156 have to be read carefully for this to be seen. Lastly, who wrote (page 172) «for these SS monsters, the spectacle of the suffering of ill-treated Jews constituted an amusing pastime?» (true as that may have been)?

The basis of P. Broad's testimony seems authentic, despite many errors, but its present literary form is visibly coloured by a rather too flagrant Polish patriotism. Furthermore, the original manuscript of his declaration is not known. However, this text should not be rejected and its «special tone» can be explained: either Broad had adopted the «language of the victor» (hypothesis put forward by Pierre Vidal-Naquet), or his declaration has been «slightly» reworked by the Poles (present author's opinion).

Whatever criticisms one might level at the accounts of these four witnesses, all affirm one identical fact: homicidal gasolings took place in the morgue of Krematorium I. Even if these accounts diverge on the number of holes through which Zyklon-B was poured or on the number of extractor fans, details in fact unlikely to be noted and remembered unless one actually designed or installed them, the utilisation of the morgue for criminal purposes is established.

Bericht

 (AUSCHWITZ KREMATORIUM)
 ARCHIVUM

BW 30/25

Über ausgeführte Arbeiten im Krematorium.

Reparatur des Unterkannals. Aufmauern der Wände im Motorenraum und Herstellen der Isole. Reparatur der Innenwände und Verputzen derselben.

Arbeitsleistung

3 Maurer
 2 Hilfsarbeiter
 5 Häftlinge

Beginn der Arbeit:

14. 5. 1942

Ende der:

19. 5. 1942

Arbeitsstunden:

2 x 11 x 3 = 66 Maurerstunden
 2 x 22 x 2 = 44 Hilfsarbeiterstunden.

Materialverbrauch:

500 Stück Ziegelsteine
 350 kg Zement
 2 Stück Fliesenleger HP 12 = 4,50 lfdm
 50 " Rahmentheile
 50 kg Rahmentheile

Die Kosten der ausgeführten Arbeiten sind laut Bestellschein vom 13.5.1942 der Verwaltung des K.L. Auschwitz im Rechnungswesen zu stellen.

Auschwitz, den 1. Juni 1942.

Report

on the work carried out in the Krematorium.

Repair of the underground flue. Erection of brickwork in the motor room and construction of the roof. Repair of internal walls and plastering of same.

Labour:

3 bricklayers
 2 labourers
 5 prisoners

Work begun:

14/5/1942

Work completed:

15/5/1942

Hours worked:

2 x 11 x 3 = 66 bricklayer hours
 2 x 22 x 2 = 44 labourer hours

Materials used:

500 bricks
 350 kg cement
 2 steel beams NP 12 = 4 50 linear metres
 50 firebricks
 50 kg refractory cement

The cost of the work done is to be invoiced to the Auschwitz Concentration Camp Administration in accordance with the Order of 13th May 1942.

Auschwitz, 1st June 1942.

Signatures illegible

THE CREATION OF KREMATORIUM I

The former powder magazine, or according to other sources, victualling store, of the Austro-Hungarian and subsequently Polish barracks where Auschwitz concentration camp was set up in June 1940, was modified, starting about 5th July of that year, to be used as a crematorium installation for incinerating dead prisoners. The work was carried out by the first inmates (Polish political prisoners), who arrived on 14th June.

This conversion, one of the first if not the very first, was planned and the drawings produced by the K.L. Auschwitz SS-NEUBAULEITUNG/Construction Management. Only the list of the twelve initial drawings has been found, not the drawings themselves [Documents D1a, D1b and D1c]. The only ornament on the building, a wrought iron lamp hanging over the main entrance [Photo 1], was also planned. The installation of a crematorium had been decided even before the first prisoners arrived. In the correspondence exchanged between J.A. TOPF & SONS of Erfurt, a firm with a section specialising in the manufacture and installation of crematorium furnaces (section D IV, Krematoriumbau, directed by the chief engineer Kurt Prüfer) and the SS-Neubauleitung of K.L. Mauthausen [Dokumentarchiv Koblenz NS 4 Mauthausen/54], there is a letter of 23rd November 1940 mentioning that Topf had received an order for a second two-muffle furnace of exactly the same type as that proposed for the Mauthausen camp (and destined for the Gussen subcamp). The Topf drawing of this furnace attached to the letter, No. D57253 of 6th June 1940 [Document II], actually refers to Auschwitz and shows the first furnace to be installed in Krematorium I. It gives details of the internal structure.

Document ID: A60897

№ du plan	Krematorium 3, 4 ^{te} , 5 ^{te} 11 u. 3 ^{te} 30. [Légendes et traductions]	[Non obtenu ou Existait]
1300	Entwässerung des Krematorium Drainage du crématoire	[E]
1311	Deckblatt zum Grundriß von Untergesch. et Dessin de la façade rectificative au plan du sous-sol [932]	[E]
1341	Einzelplan zu Türen, Deckblättern (Détaillé des portes, contreforts du toit [sur plan 928]	[E]
1434	Erichtung eines Schornsteines am Krematorium Erection d'une cheminée au crématoire (type I/III)	[ND mais E dans dossier BW 30/40, p.47]
1 ⁴⁰	Skizze Fenster im Dachgeschoß/Dessin (de) fenêtre au grenier	[ND]
1 ⁴⁵	Schornstein Krematorium 3/Cheminée crématoire 3(IV)	[ND mais E dans dossier BW 30/40, p.54]
2030	Eindeichungsanlage K.G.L. Erdgesch. Installation d'incinération C.P.G. Rez-de-chaussée [Crématoire type IV/V]	[E]

Page 422 du "Livres des plans" de la Bauleitung conservé aux Archives du P.M.O.

(Photo de l'auteur)

Drawing no. B.47a Krematorium (Title and translation) [Not bold or E/ent]

2a	Keller/cellar [Leichenkeller/Corpse cellar]	NH
10	Einbau einer Einlassungsanlage/Installation of a cremation facility	NH
11	Erdgeschoss/Ground floor	NH
10a	Horizontalschnitt Vertical section/horizontal section-vertical section	NH
10b	Erdgeschoss, Schritte/Ground floor, Steps	NH
24	Werkstatt, Antriebs/Work frame, Elevations	NH
24a	U Eisenrahmen für Schersteinen U frame for chimney	NH
34	Schersteinen Fenstergrößen/Window frame non window bars	NH
38	Angewinkelte Eingänge/Double entrance doors	NH
39	Werksteinen aus Pfeilblech/Chassis plate angle iron	NH
38	Schersteinen Beschläge 1 d Eingänge/Wrought iron hinges for entrance doors	NH
51	Schersteinen Lampe/night iron lamp	NH
37b	Einbau einer Einlassungsanlage/Installation of a cremation facility	NH
10b	Neubau Krematorium - Ansicht/New crematorium - elevations	NH
671	Neubau Krematorium - Erdgeschoss/New crematorium - ground floor	NH
10b	Neubau Krematorium - Aushaltung der Verbrennungsplanen/New crematorium - location of the incineration furnaces	NH
932	Grundriss/Ground plan [in Schubladen/drawers]	E
932	Erdgeschoss/Ground floor	E
934	Schnitte/Sections	E
935	Ansicht-Westen/West elevation	E on B3b
936	Ansicht-Norden/North elevation	E
937	Ansicht-Osten/East elevation	E and on B3b
938	Ansicht-Süden/South elevation	E and on B3b
940	Werkstatt/Work frame	E
1173	Schnitt durch Leichenhalle mit U-Einlassungsanlage	E
1174	Section through corpse cellar with ventilation and air extraction	E
1174	Querschnitt durch den unterirdischen Teil/Longitudinal section through the basement part	E
1241	Bestandsplan des Gebäudes 47a-Krematorium/Inventory drawing of building 47a-crematorium	NH
1301	Grundrissplan/Foundation drawing [in Schubladen/drawers]	E
785	Leichenhalle KGL/Corpse hall POW camp [Birkenau]	NH
812	Leichenhalle für das KGL/Corpse hall for the POW camp	NH
870	Vorschlag zur Einrichtung eines prov. Krematorium KGL	NH
1040	Project for the construction of a provisional crematorium POW camp	NH
1040	Leichenhalle für KGL/Corpse hall for POW camp	NH
1062	Krematorium KGL/Creatorium POW camp	NH
1200	Entwasserung des Krematorium Drainage of the crematorium	E
1241	Detailansicht vom Grundriss vom Untergeschoss/Detail view from basement plan drawing [302]	E
1341	Einbauelemente von Türen, Dachfenster/Details of doors, roof braces [draw B3b]	NH
1434	Einrichtung eines Schornsteins im Krematorium/Construction of a chimney at the crematorium [type B3b] [NH but E in BW 30/40, p. 47]	NH
1436	Schornstein im Dachgeschoss/Sketch of window in loft	NH
1745	Schornstein im Krematorium/Sketch of chimney at crematorium [3V]	NH but E in BW 30/40, p. 54
2036	Einbauelemente KGL Erdgeschoss/Construction facility POW camp ground floor [type IV/V crematorium]	E

THE FURNACES

This Topf drawing, showing a furnace with two cremation chambers (also known as stuffles) heated with coke by two hearths situated at the rear, was the basic model for the first two furnaces installed in Krematorium I. Although shown on this drawing, the lateral pulsed air installation does not seem to have been fitted to the furnaces according to Topf drawings D59402 [a and b].

Description

The upper opening [top left on section A-B in drawing D5725] enabled one or more bodies to be introduced using a charging trolley [Photos 22, 33, 34]. The ashes of the bodies were collected through the lower orifice [visible lower left on Photo 24]. In the case of registered prisoners, the ashes were placed in metal urns [Documents P1 and P2]. The family was informed of the death [Document P3], and could obtain the urn on request, after paying the «costs» of cremation. Since the cremations were often collective, it was virtually impossible that the urn received by the family would contain the right ashes.

The hearth was fed with coke and the embers were removed from behind the furnace, in a small pit reached by a stairway [right hand side of section A-B on drawing D5725]. The smoke reached the external chimney via underground flues.

Topf drawing D59401 [a and b] of 25th September 1941 is concerned with the installation of a third two-muffle furnace, known as the «new furnace», also with a lateral pulsed air installation, which was installed as indicated in the furnace operating instructions provided by Topf [Documents G1a and b, G2a and b].

The trolley for charging the bodies into the furnace was operated as perfectly described by Henryk TAUBER in his deposition of 24th May 1945 [Part III, Chapter 3]. The main problem with this trolley was that it tended to tip up when the wagging trough or slide was loaded with several corpses. This «nose-down» tendency meant that this type of muffle was abandoned in Krematorium II and III in favour of a «Leichenstrecke/corpses stretcher» that was easier to handle.

Fitted with three two-muffle furnaces, Krematorium I could incinerate up to 340 corpses in 24 hours, according to a Bauleitung letter of 28th June 1943 [31550/ta/Ne]. This was a PRACTICAL THROUGHPUT achieved as follows.

— For the first two two-muffle furnaces: 1.5 to 2 bodies per muffle per hour;

— For the new two-muffle furnace: 3 to 4 bodies per muffle per hour.

The coke consumption of the three furnaces was estimated at about 1000kg per 12 hours of operation, calculated on the basis of a Bauleitung note (Aktenvermerk) of 17th March 1943 [24757/43/34/Lm] [file BW 30/34, page 54]. The third furnace was the prototype for the future three-muffle furnace designed by Kurt Prüfer, chief engineer at Topf, ten of which were built and installed in Birkenau

Krematoriums II and III. This furnace entered service in December 1941 [Documents B1 and B2].

The initial chimney was of circular section, but as the result of damage it was replaced by one of square section. The date of this transformation, before September 1941, is not known. Between the furnace room and the chimney there was a shed housing the motor for the collective forced-draught installation for the three furnaces [Documents G3a, b and c].

Layout [according to Topf drawing D59402 of 25th September 1942]

The main entrance door (north-west) opened onto a vestibule leading to the furnace room. The vestibule in annex a, a coke store with its own entrance loom outside containing a built office [which no longer exists] and an urn room. Entering the vestibule loom outside, the first door on the right opened on a laying-out room [which now contains the oil-fired cremation furnace from the Treblinka labour camp], the left hand door [blocked up since 1944] opened onto the third furnace and, finally, the second door on the right opened onto the washing room communicating directly with the «Leichenhalle» or morgue that communicated with the furnace room through smaller door.

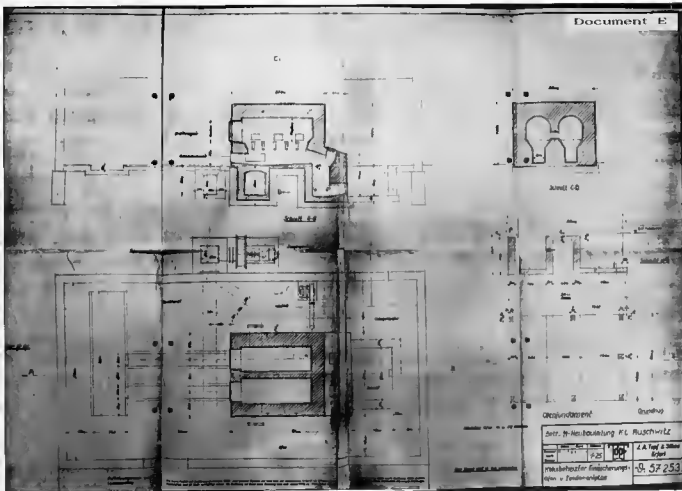
The bodies of dead prisoners should have taken the elevator laying-out room, washing room and morgue, where they would be stored while awaiting cremation. In fact, they were directly stacked in the morgue. The delay between death and cremation was three or four days [Documents P1 and P2]. Their ashes, theoretically deposited in individual urns, were sent to the family at the latter's expense.

The morgue

From an «ordinary» morgue it gradually became a place for «knocking over», a term designating a section by shooting in the back of the neck with a small calibre firearm, a practice used by the Political Section of the camp on those it condemned. Rather than transporting to the Krematorium the bodies of prisoners executed in the yard between Blocks 10 and 11, at the other end of the camp, much effort was saved by taking the victims directly on foot from Block 11 to the morgue of the Krematorium and shooting them there.

At the end of 1941 the morgue was transformed into a homicidal gas chamber operating on Zyklon-B, the regulative hydrocyanic acid decomposition agent used the Wehrmacht, produced by Degussa and distributed in the east of the Reich by Tesch and Stabenow (Tesch).

The present area of the gas chamber is 98m², including the airlock at the south-east end. Initially, it covered 78m² and had a volume of 224m³ [or a little less than half the volume of the gas chambers in Krematorium II and III]. The two gas-tight doors, one opening on the furnace room and the other on the washing room, had three thicknesses of board and were sealed with felt (one of these gas-tight doors with no peephole is visible leaving against the wall where the third furnace used to be). In the ceiling there were at least three openings for pouring Zyklon B [Photo 34] which was thrown in directly and scattered



over the victims. 3kg [1 kg per opening] were required to kill the 500 to 700 people that the morgue could hold. It would appear that one or two extractor fans were installed in the ceiling [according to the testimonies of Fajnzylberg, Müller and Broad].

The homicidal gasings

The first experimental gassing took place on 3rd September 1941, using Zyklon B in the basement of Block 11, the openings of which had been crudely sealed with earth. The victims were 250 sick prisoners and 600 Russians. The next day, an SS man wearing a gas mask went to see the results and saw that some of the punier prisoners were still alive. More Zyklon B was introduced. On the evening of the 5th nobody moved any more. The corpses were then transported by a group of prisoners to Krematorium I to be incinerated. Shortly afterwards 900 Russian prisoners according to former camp Kommandant Höss [in fact between 500 and 700], were gassed directly in the morgue of Krematorium I, which avoided the need to transport the bodies. Then, in January 1942, operations began at Birkenau Bunker 1, which had two small gas chambers for the extermination of Jews.

During the gasings, a certain area around Krematorium I was sealed off. Furthermore, it was forbidden to look at the roof of the Krematorium which was visible from the windows of the SS hospital located on the first floor of the building nearest to the Krematorium, separated from it only by the «Kasernenstrasse». The Krematorium forecourt was closed off and served as an undressing place for the victims who were then pushed into the morgue. The two gas-tight doors were closed and Zyklon-B was injected through three openings in the roof. Outside, a truck kept its engine running during the whole operation to drown the cries.

It is not known how many deaths were caused by this gas chamber, which was used only occasionally and not continuously. The number is probably not more than 10 000.

Krematorium I functioned as a cremation installation from November 1940 to July 1943. Its gas chamber was used sporadically from the end of 1941 to 1942, but precise dates are not known. The installation was abandoned in 1943, its three furnaces dismantled and the chimney demolished.

Conversion to an air raid shelter

Because of the American bombing (the first raids on the IG Farben Buna factory at Monowitz and on Auschwitz I were on 13th September 1944), the «old» Krematorium, unused since the construction of the four «new» Krematorien at Birkenau, was converted into an air raid shelter for the patients of the SS hospital. Two similar Auschwitz Bauleitung drawings of 21st September 1944 (4287a and b) show the interior arrangement, designated Bauwerk 14. The modifications concerned only the entrance vestibule, the laying-out room, the washing room and the morgue. This last was divided into four rooms,

Document F1



Document F2



Documents F1 and F2

Side and oblique views of a metal urn from Auschwitz Krematorium I, kept in the museum «Reserve stocks», catalogued PMO-B-6490. These photographs are by the author, but similar pictures in black and white are to be found under references PMO neg. 760/16 (side view) and 760/17 (top view).

The precise text inscribed on the cover of the urn is:

* K R E M A T O R I U M [the star having five-points]
[circular inscription on the edge of the lid, upper left]

2017	Nr Urkunde/[cremation] certificate number
WITALSKI	Name/family name
KARL	Vorname/given name
19 9 13	geboren/born
28 3 41	gestorben/died
2 4 41	gebrenn/cremated

After the death of this prisoner, FIVE days passed before his cremation, a period requiring his remains to be kept in a large morgue, due to the great number of deaths.

Another identical urn, but coming from Mauthausen, is kept in the Reserve stocks under reference PMO-B-6491. The photograph of its cover is catalogued PMO neg. no. 760/24 and the inscribed text is:

* K R E M A T O R I U M

No 721	
WROBEL	
SZCZESNY	
12 5 95	
19 10 40	
23 10 40	[the delay between death and cremation here is FOUR days]

CONCLUSION

Because of the lack of original documents and the transformations that have been made [see the drawing of the present state of the premises at the end of this chapter], it was not possible before to materially demonstrate the existence of a homicidal gas chamber in the former morgue of Krematorium I, even though the testimonies of former prisoners and SS formally affirm its existence. This is why the revisionist attacks [see the remarks by R. Faure on the Krematorium I in «Vérité historique ou vérité polémique» by S. Thion, La Vieille Taupe, April 1990, pages 314 to 317] have essentially been concerned with this building, which is by far the most visited in the camp. But at the end of February 1988, a certain Friedl LEUCHTER, an American engineer specialised in the design and improvement of legal methods of execution in the United States (including gas chambers), having been commissioned by the «revisionists», went to Poland and, without the authorizations of the P.M.O., took seven samples from bricks and cement in the «Leichenhalle» of Krematorium I. The «reports» that Leuchter wrote on his return [AN ENGINEERING REPORT ON THE

ALLEGED EXECUTION GAS CHAMBERS AT AUSCHWITZ, BIRKENAU AND MAJANEK - POLAND, April 5, 1990] indicates the cyanide levels found in the analysis of each sample, expressed in milligrammes of cyanides per kilogramme of sample (mg/kg). Six of them were positive (3.8/1.9, 1.3, 1.4, 1.3, 7.9, 1.1 mg/kg) and one negative (taken from the floor according to the sampling plan). These results, virtually all (6 out of 7) positive, prove the use of hydrogen cyanide in the «Leichenhalle» of krematorium I, hence its use as a homicidal gas chamber. Today, despite its poor reconstitution, the krematorium I must be considered as an authentic symbol of homicidal gasings in Auschwitz, since several thousand people did indeed die there through gassing.

When it turned out that Krematorium I no longer sufficed for cremating the numerous dead in the camp, the SS considered building a «new» Krematorium in the main camp about 20 metres from the first

this creating a suite of six rooms, whose communicating doors were staggered in order to reduce the blast effect of a bomb exploding in the vicinity. The suite included an operating table and a double wash basin with mirror (in the laying-out room), and two WCs (in the washing room) [Documents J1 and J2]. Entry was through two air locks (one arranged in the vestibule through building a wall between two of the supporting pillars, the other being built at the opposite end of the suite, in the southernmost room).

The second, unused part of the old Krematorium (furnace room and its annex) was used as a medical store [according to the former prisoner Hermann Langbein].

Krematorium I after the Liberation

The building was found as the SS had abandoned it [Photo 21]. It would appear that the photos of the interior showing the state of the premises were not taken in the beginning of 1945, when it is a pity because the restructuring of the building back into a Krematorium

began immediately after the liberation. During this work, a dance was organised on the roof [Photo 14] of the gas chamber, an event no doubt to be explained by the euphoria resulting from the end of the war.

The chimney [Photos 8, 9 and others] was rebuilt in the form of the second model. Four openings supposedly for pouring Zyklon B were made in the roof [Photos 15 and 16] which was covered with roofing felt, thus hiding the traces of the ventral openings. Four of the five partition walls of the air rail shelter were demolished. The space obtained [Photos 20 and 22] became the present gas chamber with an area of 94m² (not including the air lock), while the original gas chamber was 78m² and did not have any access by the air lock remaining to the south. The communicating door between the morgue and the furnace room was reopened, unfortunately just beside the original location [Photo 24]. The first two furnaces [Photos 22, 23 and 24] were rebuilt from memory and as a function of the metal parts found in the «Bauehof» (open air depot for building materials). The third furnace was not rebuilt [Photo 25]. The entrance door to the medical store [Photos 6 and 16] was converted into a window.

Betriebsvorschrift des koksbeheizten Topf-Doppelmuffel-Einäscherungs-Ofen

Vor Beschickung der beiden Koks-Generatoren mit Koks müssen die beiden Rauchkanalschieber am Ofen geöffnet werden, desgl. auch der Haupt-Rauchkanalschieber bzw. die Drehklappe am Schornstein.

Hinzu mehr kann in den beiden Generatoren Feuer entzündet und unterhalten werden, hierbei beachten, dass die Sekunderverschlüsse rechts und links der Ascheentnahmestellen (Koks-Generator) geöffnet sind.

Während die Einäscherungskammer gut rotwarm (ca. 800°C) ist, können die Leichen hintereinander in die beiden Kammern eingefahren werden. Jetzt ist es zweckmäßig, das seitwärts am Ofen stehende Druck-Luftgebläse einzustellen und ca. 20 Minuten laufen zu lassen. Hierbei ist zu beobachten, ob zuviel oder zu wenig Frischluft in die beiden Kammern eintritt.

Die Regulierung der Frischluft erfolgt durch die Drehklappe die sich in der Luftrohrleitung befindet. Weiterhin müssen die rechts und links der Einfahrtüren angeordneten Luftentritts, halb geöffnet werden.

Sobald die Leichen Teile vom Schamottestock nach der darunter liegende Ascheschürze gefallen sind, müssen diese mittels der Krätze nach vorn zur Ascheentnahmefür gezogen werden. Hier können diese Teile nach 20 Minuten zum Weiterbrennen legen. Denn wird die Asche in den Aschebehälter gezogen und zur Abkühlung beiseite gestellt.

Zwischendurch werden neue Leichen in die Kammern nach einander eingeführt.

Die beiden Koks-Generatoren müssen von Zeit zu Zeit mit Brenn-stoff beschickt werden.

Jeden Abend muss der Generatorrost von den Koks-schlacken befreit und die Asche herausgenommen werden.

Zu beachten ist ferner, dass nach Betriebsschluss, sobald der Generator leer gebrennt ist und Gulleite nicht mehr vorhanden sind, alle Luftschieber und Türen desgl. auch die Rauchkanalschieber am Ofen geschlossen sein müssen um den Ofen nicht auszukühlen.

Nach jeder Einäscherung steigt die Temperatur im Ofen. Daher bitte beachten, dass die Innentemperatur nicht über 1100°C kommt (Weissglut).

Diese Temperatursteigerung kann durch Luftblasen verhindert werden.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR COKE-FIRED TOPF DOUBLE-MUFFLE INCINERATION FURNACE

Before charging the two hearths with coke, the two furnace dampers and the main rotary damper in the chimney must be open.

The fire can now be lit and maintained, being sure to open both secondary openings to the right and left of the cinder removal doors (of the coke furnace).

Once the cremation chamber (muffle) has been brought to a good red heat (approximately 800°C), the corpses can be introduced one after the other in the cremation chambers.

Now the pulsed air blower situated to the side of the furnace should be switched on and run for about 20 minutes, ensuring that the two cremation chambers do not receive too much or too little fresh air.

Regulation of the fresh air is by means of a rotary valve in the air duct. In addition, the air intakes, to the right and left of the chamber doors, should be half open.

As soon as the remains of the corpses have fallen from the chamotte grid to the ash collection channel below, they should be pulled forward towards the ash removal door, using the scraper. Here they can be left for a further 20 minutes to be fully consumed, then the ashes should be placed in the container and set aside to cool.

In the meantime, further corpses can be introduced one after the other into the chambers.

The two coke furnaces must be fed with fuel from time to time.

Every evening, the furnace fire bars must be cleaned at clinker and the cinders removed.

In addition, care must be taken that at the end of operations, as soon as the furnace having burnt everything is empty and no coals remain, that all the air valves, doors and dampers are closed, so that the furnace does not cool.

After each incineration, the temperature rises in the furnace. For this reason, care must be taken that the internal temperature does not rise above 1100°C (white heat).

This increase in temperature can be avoided by introducing additional fresh air.

Betriebsvorschrift über die „TOPF“-Saugzuganlage

Falls der Zug im Ofen nicht ausreicht, muss die am Schornstein eingebaute Saugzuganlage in Betrieb genommen werden.

Hierbei beachten, dass zuerst der Motor angestellt wird und dann erst darf die Drehklappe im Schornstein geschlossen werden. Die Wasserzufuhr zum wassergekühlten Lager muss auch sofort laufen.

Nach Schluss des Einäscherungsbetriebes muss zuerst die Drehklappe im Schornstein geöffnet werden und dann den Motor und die Wasserzufuhr abstellen.

Zu beachten ist fernerhin, dass immer genügend Wasser im Behälter vorhanden ist.

Document G3a

Document G3a (PMO file BW1111, page 2)

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TOPF FORCED DRAUGHT INSTALLATION

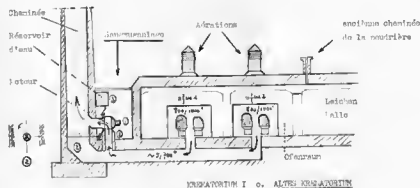
If the furnace does not draw properly, the forced draught installation incorporated in the chimney must be brought into service.

Here, care must be taken to first switch on the motor and only afterwards close the rotary damper in the chimney. The cold water supply from the tank should also be opened immediately.

At the end of the incineration, the rotary damper in the chimney must be opened first and then the motor and the water supply shut off.

In addition, care must be taken to ensure that there is always enough water in the tank.

Schéma de l'installation d'aspiration "Topf": (demi de reconstitution de fonction essai)



Document G3c

Topf forced draught installation: schematic diagram
(reconstitution of operations)

- Cheminée/Chimney
- Réservoir d'eau/Water tank
- Moteur/Motor
- Saugzuganlage (forced draught installation)
- Aérateurs/Ventilators
- Ancienne cheminée de la poudre/Old powder store chimney
- Ofen/Furnace
- Ofenraum/Furnace room
- Leichenhalle/Morgue

KREMATORIUM I OR OLD KREMATORIUM

Letter dated 9th December 1941 from Section D IV of the firm Topf & Sons of Erfurt, (K. Peiser) to the Associate Waffen SS and Police Construction Management, concerning the furnace of the crematorium.

Translation of the first four lines:

J. A. TOPF & SÖHNE

MASCHINENFABRIK • FEUERUNGSTECHNISCHE ABTEILUNG

QEQE 1274

2019.05.20
 2019.05.20
 2019.05.20
 2019.05.20

An die
Bauleitung der Waffen-SS und
Polizei.

Auswahlts /04-54

L

Krenetorius,
Einöcherungs-Ofen.

180221047

ERFURT 9.12.41.
POSTACH NO. 1
LADIE UND VERWALTUNG
STREYSSHAUSEN 10
hgg.

WORLD AFFAIRS
D IV/PREF.

Refiling No 41/2434/2

Unser Herr Monsieur Mähr hätte für den neuen Einlecherungs-Ofen die Fundament-Anlage sowie eine Reparatur an den beiden kokabeheizten Doppelkessel-Einlecherungs-Öfen durchgeführt und diese Arbeiten im Tagelohn verrichtet. Wir danken Ihnen bestens für den uns erteilten Auftrag auf

Monteurstellung.

den wir unter Zugrundelegung unserer Ihnen bekannten Sätze und Bedingungen für Montageeinstellung angenommen haben,

Sie können Ihnen mitteilen, daß ein Tagwerk mit Sohnmattmaterial von unserem Lieferwerk, der Firma Pilmaß, Fichtenheimleichen b. Kempten, verladen worden ist. Diese Materialien werden als Ersatzmaterialien für Reparaturarbeiten von Ihrer örtlichen Verwaltung des K.L. bestellt worden. Sie können jedoch diese Materialsliler, die zum Neubau eines Ofens ausreichen, für den neuen Ofen einseitig verwenden und bitten Sie, für rechtzeitige Benachrichtigung an uns bemüht zu sein, damit wir einer Kontour zum Aufbau des Ofens

ARCHIWUM

Au^- , Bzw A_1/A

APPENDIX

ALTOPF & SÖHNE ERFURT

TAG

BLATT

$$y_{t+1} = \frac{y_t}{\alpha + y_t}$$

Bauleitung der „offen-SS und Polizei,
Anschluß /O.-S.

nach dort entsenden können. - Wir haben also nichts unver-
sucht gelesen, wogegen eine Jagd von Schmotte auf den
Faz zu bringen, damit wir den Ofen aufbauen können.

Gern zu Ihren Diensten, empfehlen wir uns Ihnen bestens.

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DOCUMENTS H1 et H2:

Lettre de la firme Teyl & Söhne d'Erfurt, émanant de la section D IV (K. Prüfer), à la Direction des constructions de la Waffen-SS et de la Police d'Auschwitz datée du 9 décembre 1941 et concernant les four d'incinération du crématorium II.

Traduction des quatre premiers lignes

"Notre mentor Mahr a exécuté les fondations du nouveau four d'incinération ainsi qu'une réfection aux deux fours d'incinération à double soufflerie chauffés au coke et accumulé ces travaux à la journée."

(Consider P.M.O. 15, 11/1, p. 4)

ARCHIWUM

Am I, Bld 11/1

Document H2

(Department P.M.O. 104 11/1, p.51)

Document 11

Auschwitz, 14.11.44

Kontingenzierungsplan für
44- Luftschutz bunker (alt.
Kremat.) BW 14 in 4 partes
Anfertigung erhalten.

Auschwitz, 6.11.44

Projet de contingentement pour le bunker de protection aérienne SS (vieille)
craie (anci.) Crématorium) 44 14 en 4 copies (orig.)
Auschwitz, 14.11.44

Signature illegible
(Document P.M.O. BW 11 4, p.1)

PROJEKT DES KONTINGENTIERUNG
ARCHIVUM

Au I, BW 11/4

Auschwitz 6.11.44

Rationed materials required for the SS air raid shelter (old crematorium) BW 14 in 4 copies.
Auschwitz, 14.11.44

Signature illegible

Document 12

4.11

Kontingenzierung Anbau Haus 7

1 kompl. Waschbecken 50 cm m. Abflussventil	E.	1,8
2 Konsolen	E.	2,2
1 Geruchverschluss	Z.	0,38
1 Abfluss 1/2"	E.	19,56
12 mtr. Rohr, verz. 3/4" 163	E.	19,56
5 " " schwarz 1 1/2" 366	E.	19,56
1 Spiegel		

Kontingenzierungsplan für den Anbau Haus 7

4.11

1 lavabo complet de 50 cm d'axe) écartement	Fini	1,8
2 consoles (supports)	Zinc	2,2
1 siphon	Zinc	0,38
1 robinet 1/2"	Zinc	19,56
12 mètres de tube, dia (int.) 3/4" 163	Fini	16,30
5 mètres de tube (ext.) noir 1 1/2" 366	Fini	16,30
1 glace (mirror)		

(Document P.M.O. BW 11 4, verso p.1)

PROJEKT DES KONTINGENTIERUNG
ARCHIVUM

Au I, BW 11/4

Rationed materials for the conversion of House 7

1 50 cm washbasin complete with evacuation	Iron	1.8
2 supporting brackets	Zinc	2.2
1 siphon	Zinc	0.38
1 1/2" tap	Iron	19.56
12 metres 3/4" tube galvanized 163	Iron	19.56
5 metres 1 1/2" black tube 366	Iron	19.56
1 mirror		

SOURCES

a) File BW 11/1: (15 documents)

1. Letter of 24/9/41 from Topf to Bauleitung
2. Topf operating instructions for the forced draught installation
3. Topf operating instructions for the double-muffle furnace
4. Letter of 9/12/41 from Topf to Bauleitung (page 1)
5. Letter of 9/12/41 from Topf (page 2)
6. Letter of 10/12/41 from Topf to Bauleitung
7. Letter of 5/1/42 from Topf to Bauleitung
8. Copy of letter of 5/1/42 from Bauleitung (Teichmann/Ertl) to Topf
9. Manuscript draft of the above [5/1/42]
10. Copy of letter of 8/1/42 from Bauleitung (Teichmann/Bischoff) to Topf
11. Letter of 9/1/42 from Topf to Bauleitung
12. Copy of letter of 2/4/42 from Bauleitung (Dejaco/Bischoff) to Topf
13. Inventory of the water supply and drainage installations in the air raid shelter (old Krematorium) BW 14 on 22/12/44 (Jentsch/Reichwein)
14. Blank Bauleitung invoice of 1941
15. Identical to the above [1941]

b) File BW 11/2: (three drawings, numbered 16, 17, 18)

16. Copy of Topf drawing D59042 [a] made by the Control Commission for the Investigation of Hitlerite Crimes in Poland
17. Topf drawing D59042 [a] of 25/9/41
18. Topf drawing D59042 [b] of 25/9/41

c) File BW 11/3: (two drawings, numbered 19a and 19b)

- 19a. Bauleitung drawing 4287 of 21/9/44
- 19b. Bauleitung drawing 4287 of 21/9/44 [drainage]

d) File BW 11/4: (three documents)

1. Handwritten note of a list in four copies of rationed materials required for the air raid shelter, BW 14, dated 6th and 14th November 1944
- 1a. Verso of the above, list of sanitary equipment required, iron and zinc, on 4th November [44]

2. Note of non-ferrous metal requirements, drawn up on 6th November 1944 by the Bauleitung and concerning the sanitary installations of BW 14 (Jentsch/Reichwein)

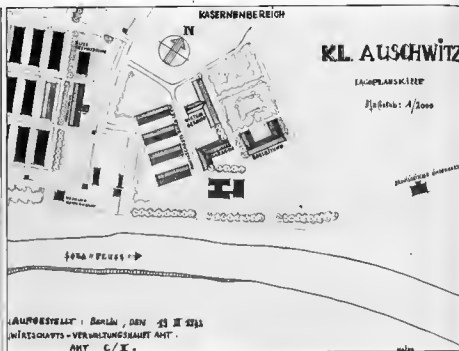
3. Note of iron requirements, drawn up on 6th November 1944 by the Bauleitung, concerning the sanitary installations of BW 14 (Jentsch/Reichwein)

e) File BW 11/5: (six documents)

1. Topf recapitulatory report of the work carried out in Krematorium I, dated 1st June 1942
2. Duplicate of the above
3. Order from the camp administration to its Bauleitung for repairs to Krematorium I, dated 13th May 1942, with notes by Bischoff on the 19th and Lubitz on the 20th
- 3a. Verso of the above with the delivery conditions
4. Typed copy of the administration order of 13th May 1942
5. Handwritten recapitulatory letter from the chief bricklayer capo listing the work carried out at Krematorium I, countersigned by a Topf official, dated 20th May 1942 [page 1]
6. Handwritten recapitulatory letter of 20th May 1942 [page 2]

f) File BW 14:

(This file contains the correspondence concerning work on the SS hospital and the air raid shelter undertaken in September 1944. It also contains a drawing of the old Krematorium transformed into an air raid shelter, Bauleitung drawing 4287 of 21/9/44. This drawing in file BW 14 has no page or photograph reference number as it is already classified elsewhere.

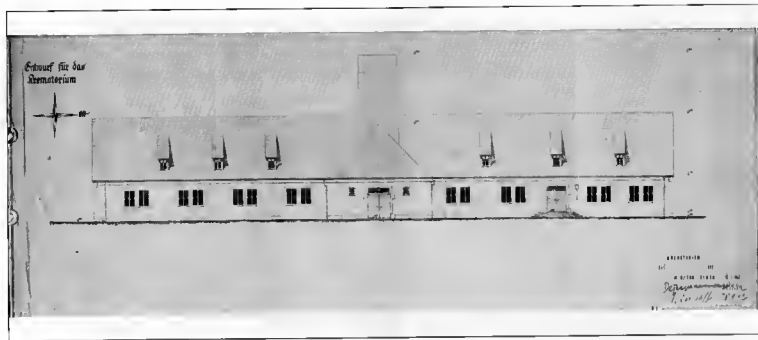


Document b (P40 nry 206114)
Author s 1-1 tracing of part of a drawing of the Auschwitz main camp (Stammlager) development plan, drawn in Berlin on 19th February 1942 by Office C I of the Economic Administration Head Office.

Translation of inscriptions

- Altes Krematorium/old crematorium
- Wohnung Kommandant/Commandant's house
- Sola Fluss/Sola river
- Kasernenbereich/barrack area
- Mannschafts/obarracken/roop barracks
- Wirtschaft's Gebäude/domestic offices
- Garagen/garages
- Bauleitung/construction management
- Provisionische Kindergarten/provisional kindergarten
- Lagerplatz/area/location drawing
- Mäktel/Scale

This drawing shows the location of a new crematorium to be built on a southeast, or roughly south, extension of the building line of the old crematorium, planned by the SS Economic Administration Head Office in Berlin and drawn on 19th February 1942.



Document 1
[PMO file BH 3015 orig. no. 20815/7]

«Entwurf für das Krematorium/projected crematorium» - East elevation
Bauleitung drawing 937, scale 1:100 [and not 1:1 as indicated]
Drawn on 15th January 1942 by SS Sergeant Ulmer, checked on 28th
January by SS Second Lieutenant Dejace and approved on the same day by
SS Captain Eischhoff

Following the transfer of this crematorium to Buchenwald, the orientation of this facade
was changed from east to NORTH. The end of the half-barrel roof of Leichenkeller/
cynose cylinder 2 was drawn as the extension of the building to the right

Entwurf für das Krematorium



Darstellung M
[PMO 8/1 30/10. arg an 20/1/1942]

„Entwurf für das Krematorium“
projected crematorium - South elevation
Bauleitung drawing 938, scale 1:100
Drawn on 15th January 1942 by SS
Sergeant Ulmes,
checked on 28th January by SS
Second Lieutenant Dejaco
and approved on the same day by
SS Captain Bischoff.

After it was decided to transfer this
crematorium from K.L. Auschwitz to K.G.L. Beke-
min, this drawing was copied and included in Baulei-
tung drawing 938 of 15.1.42 showing the floor plan
of the future Krematorium II oriented according
to its implantation in Beke-min. This facade then
became that facing east. In addition, the half-burned
roof of the Leichenkelleneinraum zellen 1, located
perpendicular to the south facade, was added.

BAULEITUNG 10

1/1/42

100

W 2/1/42 D. B. 1

Dejaco

5

4.17.1942

2. April 1942

Zftgb.-No. 5444 /42/Da/Qu.

Einf Schreiben

Leit.: Ba- und Lüftungsanlage für das zu errichtende
Krematorium in K.L. Auschwitz
Begr.: Ihr Schreiben vom 12.3.42, Ihrer Abteilung D - Betr.
Anlg.: 4 Pläne

An die
Firma Topf u. Söhne

Erfurt

In der Anlage erhalten Sie einen Satz geklärte Pläne,
über das zu errichtende Krematorium in K.L. Auschwitz.

In den Plänen ist die gewünschte Führung der Ba- und
Lüftungskanäle eingezeichnet. Es wird gebeten, sich bei
Ausarbeitung bes. Abänderung Ihres Projekts lt. Zeichnung
D 59 366 nach Möglichkeit der in unseren Plänen eingezeichneten
Kanalführung anzupassen.

Die Führung der Ba- u. Lüft. führung über Dach soll in
Form geeigneter Kamine erfolgen.

Um baldige Erledigung wird wegen der Dringlichkeit
des Vorhabens gebeten.

Der Leiter der Ba- u. Lüft. führung
der Kassen- und Kassen- Auschwitz

[Handwritten signature]
-criptu. p. (1)

105
ARCI

Translation

2nd April 1942

Correspondence register no 5999/42/De[sc]o/Cu

REGISTER

Subject: Ventilation and air extraction installation for the crematorium to be built in Auschwitz Concentration Camp
Ref: Your letter of 12.3.42 from your department D - Schvn
End: Four drawings

To
Messrs Topf & Söhne
Erfurt

Please find attached a set of modified drawings for the crematorium to be built in Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

These drawings show the desired positions for the ventilation intake and outlet ducts. We would ask you, in any development or change in your project as shown on drawing D 59 366, to adapt as far as possible to the duct positions shown on our drawings.

The intake and outlet ducting above the roof is to be in the form of brick chimneys.

We would ask you to finish this work as soon as possible, in view of the urgency of the construction project.

Head of the of Auschwitz Waffen-SS and
Police Control Construction Management

[initialed by Bischoff]

SS Hauptsturmführer (Specialist)

The four drawings enclosed with his letter by Dejaco and showing the ventilation ducting of the future Krematorium II can be no other than:

- 932 (drawing of the basement);
- 933 (cross-section of the building and of basement morgues [Leichenkeller] 1 and 2 and 934 (ground floor) [these two drawings are frequently presented together as a single drawing];
- 980 (drawing of roof frame);
- 1173 (longitudinal section of the building at the junction between Leichenkeller 1 and 2) and 1174 (cross-section of Leichenkeller 1 where it connects with the main building above ground) [always presented together as a single drawing].



Photo 1

The classic - picture porcelain of the northwest side of Krematorium I with the chimney appearing to emerge from the building, whereas it is in fact separate, and the steel-faced, gas-tight door with peephole, which never

EXTERNAL VIEWS OF KREMATORIUM I

Photo 3

(PMD neg. no. 4033)

Western corner of Krematorium I in 1946-47 with the chimney rebuilt. The windows of the morgue and that providing light to the third Bonacc have been reinstated.



Photo n° 3. Angle ouest du crématoire I en 1946-1947 avec sa cheminée reconstruite. La fenêtre du morgue et celle éclairant le 3ème bonacc ont été réinstallées.



Photo 2

(PMD neg. no. 4032)

Western corner of Krematorium I in 1945 in its condition as a gas hold shelter - with no chimney and with the windows of the morgue filled in. The central door gave access to the first air lock of the shelter the second one alongside it to the medical store.

Photo n° 2: Angle ouest du crématoire I en 1945, sans cheminée, deux des trois "bonacc de protection aérienne". La fenêtre du morgue est comblée. La porte centrale permet d'accéder au premier sas de l'abri - le second à côté de la cheminée du morgue, pour accéder au 2ème sas.



Photo n° 4. Angle ouest du crématoire I, été 1945.

(Photo de l'auteur, 1963)

Photo 4

(Photo by the author, 1963)

Western corner of Krematorium I, present state.

Photo 5

[Photo by the author, 1982]

Northwest facade of Krematorium I, present state



Photo n° 5: Façade nord-ouest du crématoire 1, état actuel.

(Photo de l'auteur, 1982)

Photo 6:

[Photo taken from the book by
Volf. Friedländer, "Rast
Gessen in Auschwitz", 1967, plate
page 16. Photo probably from
the PMO]



North facade of
Krematorium I, being rebuilt in
1945-46. The chimney has
been largely lost. The morgue
window is being installed. The
door of the medical store is still
in its original case

Photo 7:

Nord nord de crématoire 1, état actuel. Dans le bâtiment de droite était installé l'hôpital SS du
camp. Les fenêtres du premier étage offraient une vue directe et piquante sur le toit du créma-
toire 1 et, de ce fait, sur les SS versant le Zyklon-B par les orifices pendant les gazages. Il était
donc interdit de regarder par les fenêtres. La personnalité des bâtons III, selon septembre 1944, fut
aménagé dans la partie sud-ouest du crématoire un bunker du polycrématoire derrière l'hôpital SS.
(Photo de l'auteur, 1982)



Photo 7

[Photo by the author, 1982]

Northern section of
Krematorium I, present state.
The building on the right was
that housing the SS hospital of
the camp. The first floor
windows offered a direct
view down onto the roof of
Krematorium I, and hence on
the SS men pouring Zyklon B
through the slaps during
gassing. At such times it was
forbidden to look out of the
windows. The proximity of
these buildings led to the
eastward part of the
crématorium being converted
into an SS medical store for the SS
hospital in September 1944

Photo 8

(Photo by the author)

Northern corner of the chimney



Photo n° 8. Angle nord de la cheminée du crématoire.

(Photo de l'auteur)

Photo 9

(Photo by the author)

East corner of the chimney, present state. Between the chimney and the wall of the furnace room there was a shed housing a forced-draft installation to improve the efficiency of the three furnaces.



Photo n° 9. Angle est de la cheminée, état actuel. Entre la cheminée et le mur de la salle des fours, était placée dans un abri l'installation de tirage induit, facilitant la marche des trois fours.

(Photo de l'auteur)

Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 10

[Source: Warsaw Central Commission Soudreau Lucie series
opp. 51/504]

The right hand door is the main entrance, anti-west, of Kermisternum I in 1945 (May¹). It is not known whether the door is original or has just been fitted. Restoration work is in progress. The left hand door leads to the former medical suite and was subsequently to be converted back into a window.

Photo 11

[Source: Warsaw Central Commission Soudreau Lucie series
opp. 51/48]

The western access to the second air lock of the air raid shelter for the SS hospital, the building visible in the background behind the trees in 1945. This entrance led directly to the former gas chambers of Kermisternum I. Though it had nothing to do with the gas chambers it was preserved during the excavation, whereas it should have been filled in to respect the historical facts.

Photo 12

[Photo by the author]

Southern entrance to the second air lock, now designated the victims' entrance.



Photo n° 12. Entrée sud-est du deuxième sas, désignée actuellement comme celles des victimes. (Photo de l'auteur)

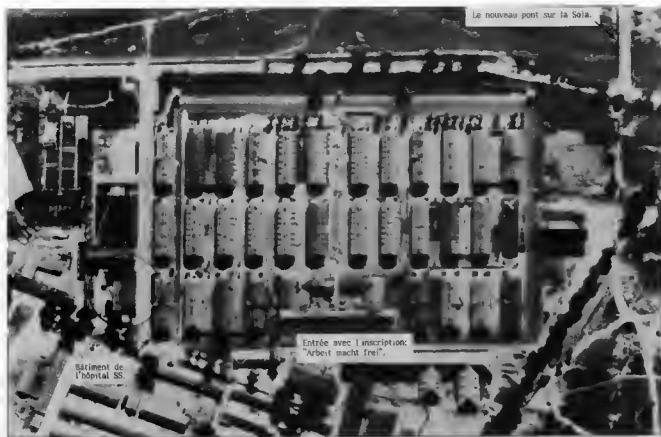


Photo 13:

Aerial Photograph of the Auschwitz main camp taken by American aviators on 25th August, 1944. In the centre of the circle is the 'old canteen' or 'Kantine' without its chimney, which has been dismantled. All that can be seen above the furnace ruins are the two small metal ventilation chimneys. To the left is the building where the SS hospital occupied the first floor.

Translation of inscriptions:

Le nouveau pont sur la Sola/New bridge over the Sola
 Bâtiment de l'hôpital SS/SS hospital building
 Entrée avec l'inscription/Entrance with the slogan:
 «Arbeit macht frei» [Work brings freedom]



Photo 14

[Source: Warsaw Central Commission, *Smoleńskie Łaczniki* series, type 5149]

«DANCE ON THE ROOF OF THE OLD CREMATORIUM».

View of the roof of Krematorium 1, looking south-north, in 1945 (May?). The chimney has not yet been rebuilt. The features of the roof are:

two ventilation chimneys (in the furnace room [two-line with a dark cap])
two other brick chimneys, probably for ventilating the gas and shelter in view of their newly-built appearance
In addition, on a line parallel to and left of them, which the two brick chimneys are built, it is possible to see THREE places where the furnace tops for introducing Zyklon B have been filled in, thus indicating that the roof was had been used as a gas chamber

Above the stage, dominated by a red star with the hammer and sickle, fly the flags of Poland [left] and the Soviet Union [right], with lamps mounted above them. This photograph proves that a dance was organized in 1945 on the roof of Krematorium 1, and that people actually danced above the homicidal gas chamber. This episode appears almost unbelievable and sadly regrettable today and the motives for it are not known. This photo also proves that the present covering of roofing felt and the awn surround of the roof are not original

EXTERNAL VIEWS OF KREMATORIUM I [ROOF]



Photo 10
[Photo by the author]

Furnace room ventilation chimney above furnace 1, close to the smoke stack and installed in the southeast part of the roof.

Photo 11
[Photo by the author]

The two furnace room ventilation chimneys corresponding to furnaces 1 (left) and 2 (right), installed in the northeast part of the roof. These are original.



Photo 15
[Photo by the author]

Overall view of the roof of Krematorium I, looking southeast. On the right hand side are the four openings for pouring Zyklon B (1 to 4); reconstructed after the war. On the left, the two probable ventilation chimneys for the air mail shelter (A and B) and one of the two ventilation chimneys for the furnace room (2).



Photo 19
[Photo by the author]

Probable ventilation chimney for the air mail shelter, muddled in the northwest part of the roof. The duct has been blocked to allow the chimney to be used as a platform for a flagpole.

Photo 16
[Photo by the author]



Probable ventilation chimney for the air mail shelter installed in the southeast part of the roof. The duct leads directly to the latent gas chamber. The upper course of bricks has disappeared.



Photo 17
[Photo by the author]

Ventilation flange in the southeast corner of the roof of Krematorium I. The zinc guttering and the downspout were installed after the war.



Photo 18
[Photo by the author]

One of the four openings for pouring Zyklon B installed after the war. They are of wood covered with rusting lead.

TOFF & SÖHNE DRAWING D 59642 (4)

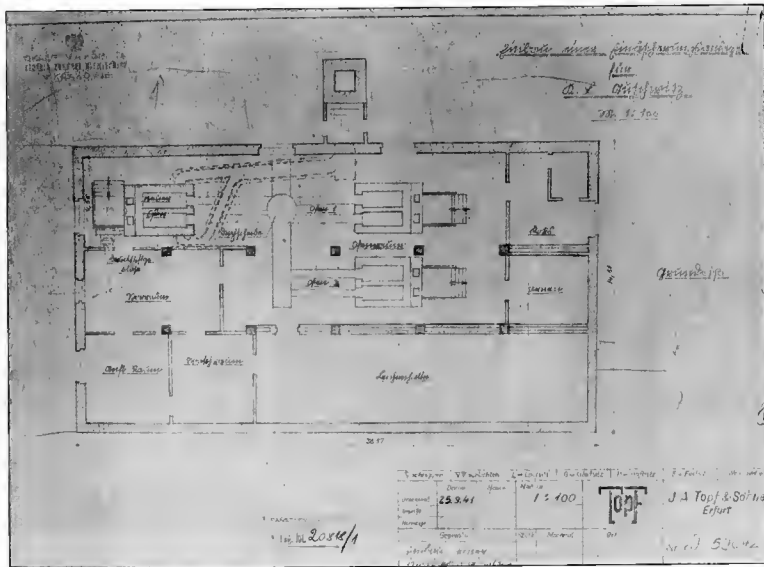
(PMO ref no 208161)
of 25th September 1941, scale 1:100

Plan einer Einäscherungsanlage für K. L. Auschwitz/
Structure of a crematorium facility for Auschwitz Concentration Camp.
[To the left is the stamp of the Oswego regional Commission for investigation of German crimes]

Translation of inscriptions:

- Grundriss/plan drawing
- Neuer Ofen/new furnace
- Druckluftgebläse/pneumatically blown
- Drehscheibe/turntable
- Ofen/furnace
- Ofenraum/furnace room
- Koks/coke
- Urnen/urns
- Vorraum/vestibule
- Aufbahrungsraum/laying out room
- Waschräum/washing room
- Leichenhalle/morgue (corpse hall)

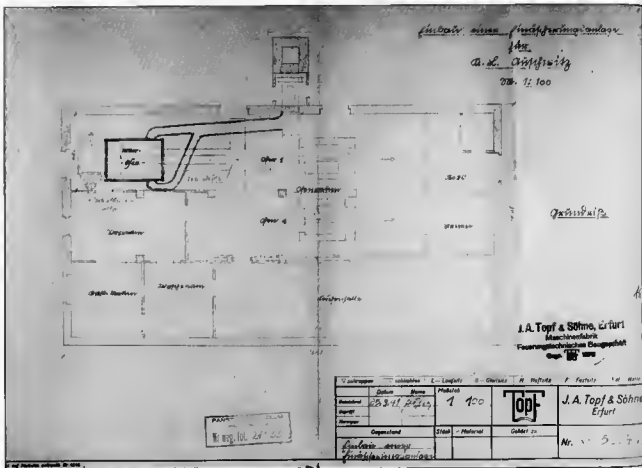
It should be pointed out that the length of crematorium I is not 36.57 metres but 37.87 metres. The forced draught installation housed in shed between the chimney and the furnace room not shown. The potted lines indicating the periphery round the Krematorium I building are not original.

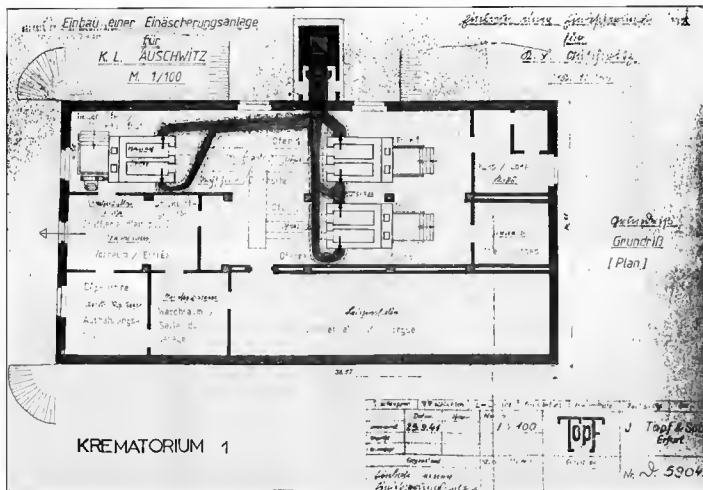


[PMO neg 21033/1] of 25th September 1941, scale 1:100

Einbau einer Einbrennungsofens für K. I. Aschewitz, Instruction of a cremation facility for Aschewitz Concentration Camp

Druckluftgebläse





INTERNAL VIEWS OF KREMATORIUM I

(Furnace room and gas chamber)

Photo 22:

[Source: PMO]

View of furnace 1, looking east, with the doors of the two cremation muffles (above) and the human ash collection doom (below) open. The two corpse charging trolleys, set on rails, were not in their present position at the Liberation, but were repositioned after being found abandoned in the main ramp. Neither of them is complete: one, (left) lacks a wheel; the other (center), its maneuvering handle. They were used exactly as related by former Sonderkommando member Henryk Tauber [see Part 1b, Chapter 3]

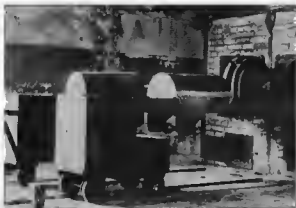


Photo 23

[Source: PMO]

View of furnace 1, its two muffles gazing looking southeast. The metal plate covering the chest of the muffle on the right is missing. This chest was filled with water and metal objects to provide a counterbalance to the weight of the two meter long corpse slide trough that entered the furnace

Photo 24

[PMO neg. no 20785/2]

North-east view of furnaces 1 (left) and 2 (right). It is obvious on this photo that furnace 2 is a reconstruction as the upper part of the metal frame supporting the brickwork is missing, unlike that of furnace 1. The two furnaces, dismantled by the SS, were rebuilt after the liberation. The original drawings were missing, so the reconstruction depended on the memories of former prisoners and the availability of metal parts found in the ramp.



Photo 25

[PMO neg. no. 4005]

Southwest view of the emplacement of furnace 3, known as the "new furnace", the only one to have been fitted with a paired air blower. Documented by the SS it was not reconstructed afterwards. It's site must have been covered by a makeshift floor, as the external access door to the former furnace room stood on a wooden stage opened just above it. The metal burner was installed after the war for the safety of visitors. In the north corner is the opening leading down to the pit from which the two hearths of the furnace were fired. The caisson at the end of the rails opens on to the floor leading the smoke to the external chimney (cf. Topf drawing **BF-PMO-2** in red) and the ashmen's room (note the floor system). On the right is the end of the slide ramp of the third charging trolley found at the liberation of the camp.



Photo 26

[Former PMO]

West/southwest view of the former furnace taken from the location of the standing more than 100 years old. The present floor area of (including the air lock at the latrine) net correspond to that of the former gas chamber, which was 10.2m² at the end is the southern air lock of the old shelter. In the ceiling are openings (PMO) and 2 (right) old photos of the roof (reconstruction) for the painting of the door communicating with the air main, installed about 1 meter in its original position.



Photo 27

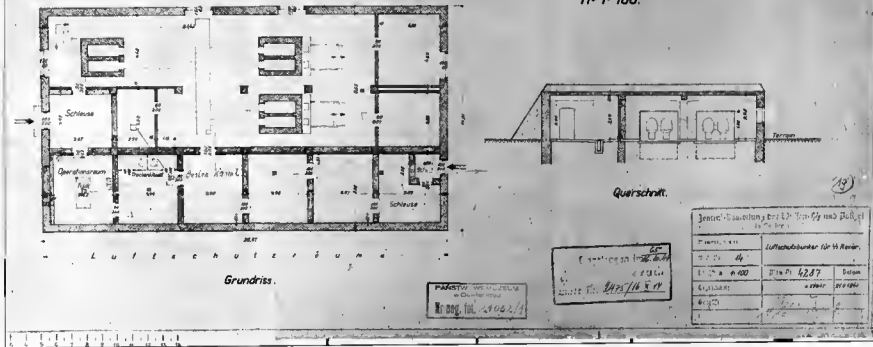
[PMO neg. no. 20003/1]

Southwest view of part of the internal gas chamber. In the middle ground on the left hand wall and the floor are the traces of one of the air lock walls of the gas chamber, demolished in order to reconstruct the gas chamber. At the far end is the glazed door leading to the former laying out room, subsequently converted into an operating device and now housing the oil-fired cremation furnace of the THALANJA labor camp. The end of the original 10.2m² gas chamber was below the third supporting beam crossing, from that forward part of the present end wall.

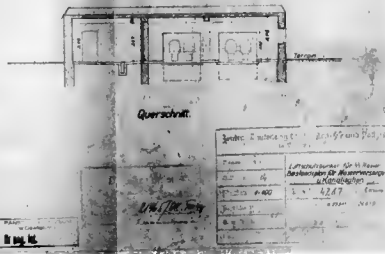
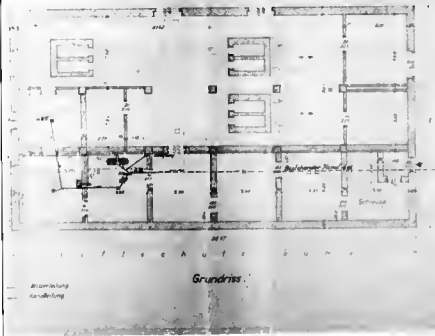


Ausbau des alten Krematorium.
Luftschutzbunker für 44 Revier mit einem Operationsraum.

M = 1:100.



M-1-100



IPMO reg. no. 20818/2] of 21st September 1944, scale 1:100, drawn by prisoner 57147.

Bestandplan für Wasserversorgung und Kanalisation/inventory drawing for water supply and drainage

- Klosett/WC
- Erwärmung/ventilation
- Wasserversorgung/water supply pipes
- Kanalisation/drainage and sewers

This drawing was entered in the catalogue of drawings on 28th December 1944. The WC's are now connected to the sewers. It is not known what type of ventilators fans, if any, were installed. The communicating door between the former furnace room and the morgue was bricked in. The medical store was reached via a door installed where the window illuminating the third furnace used to be. After the Liberation, this door was removed and the window reinstalled. The three cremation furnaces had been dismantled, but the metal parts were stored. The stoking pits must have been covered by temporary wooden floors. The windows and door leading to the third furnace of the medical store were also filled in. With part of the building converted to an air raid shelter, this is the state in which the SS abandoned Krematorium I in January 1945.

**KREMATORIUM I or the «OLD CREMATORIUM»
of the Auschwitz main camp:
Present state of the premises**

- Rendement pratique du crématoire I décrit par la Bauleitung dans une lettre du 28 juin 1943: 340 corps en 24 heures
Practical throughput of Krematorium I according to a Bauleitung letter of 28th June 1943: 340 bodies in 24 hours.
- CHEMINÉE (trouilâtre édification) CHIMNEY (third version)
- Portas: Porte pleine à trois panneaux de bois
Forte vitrée dans sa partie supérieure
Porte présentée comme «étanche au gaz»
Doors: Solid door of three wooden panels
Door with window in upper part
Door described as «gas-tight»
- Trou circulaire d'un emplacement de ventilateur
Circular hole, emplacement of extractor fan
- Emplacement des restes du FOUR 3, nouveau modèle Topf au rendement amélioré par l'adjonction d'une soufflerie d'air pulsé [four non reconstruit]
Emplacement of FURNACE 3, a new Topf model made more efficient by the addition of a pulsed air blower [furnace not rebuilt]
- Chariot d'introduction des corps retrouvé au camp à la Libération.
Corps charging trolley found in the camp after the Liberation
- FOUR 1 [Modèle Topf à deux creusets incinérateurs, plan no 57253 du 10.6.40]
FURNACE 1 [Topf model with two cremation muffles: draw 57253 of 10/6/40]
- Ancienne cokerie renfermant des parties métalliques restantes du four d'incinération du crématoire IV et trois fenêtres de versement du Zyklon-B ayant appartenu au crématoire IV ou V.
Former coke stove now containing the remaining metal parts of the cremation furnace of Krematorium IV and three Zyklon-B introduction shutters from Krematorium IV or V
- Plaque tournante/Turntable
- Rails de guidage de la plaque tournante
Turntable guide rails
- (les fours 1 et 2 furent reconstruits après la Libération selon les souvenirs des anciens détenus)
(Furnaces 1 and 2 were reconstructed from prisoners' memory after the Liberation)
- Entrée principale/Main entrance

- VESTIBULE
- Accès à l'ancien dépositoires puis salle d'opération du bunker de protection aérienne renfermant actuellement l'ancien four d'incinération de l'Arbeitslager TRZEBINIA
Access to the former laying out room, subsequently the operating theatre of the air raid shelter and now housing the former cremation furnace of the TRZEBINIA labour camp
- Accès à la salle des fours/Access to the furnace room
- Rails de guidage des chariots/Trolley guide rails
- FOUR 2/FURNACE 2
- Foyer d'alimentation des deux foyers du four
Stoking pit for the two hearths of the furnace
- Ancienne salle des urnes/Former urn room
- Four à huile lourde/Oil-fired furnace
- Ancienne salle de lavage des corps, incluse maintenant dans la chambre à gaz
Former corpse washing room, now forming part of the gas chamber
- Emplacement du mur séparant la salle de lavage de la morgue-chambre à gaz
Emplacement of wall separating the washing room from the morgue/gas chamber
- Emplacement de la porte de communication entre la salle des fours et l'ancienne morgue
Original emplacement of the door between the furnace room and the former morgue
- Porte percée après la Libération/Door installed after the Liberation
- Cheminée d'aspiration supposée du bunker de protection aérienne
Ventilation chimney presumed to be for the air raid shelter
- Chambre à gaz (ancienne morgue)/Gas chamber (former morgue)
- Deux sas d'accès au bunker/Second bomb shelter air lock
- Entrée du second sas du bunker, actuellement dite des victimes
Second entrance to the bomb shelter, now called the victims' entrance
- Office de versement du Zyklon-B aménagé après la Libération
Zyklon-B introduction office installed after the Liberation
- Superficie de la chambre à gaz/Floor area of the gas chamber
 - present: 98m² - 4m² (air lock) = 94m²
 - original: 17 00m x 4,60m = 78,2m²

États actuels des lieux

Trou circulaire
d'un emplacement
de ventilateur

Estudio principal.

ငါတို့အတွက်
အသုံးပြုနိုင်သော အချက်အလက်

Parties.

- partie pleine d'insé parreaux de bois.
- partie viciée dans sa partie supérieure.
- partie usinée comme "blanche au sae".

DRAWING of the
present state
(*Drawing and inscription by
Jean Claude Prenter
(August 1985)*)

三

11

26.5° E

31, 32 cm

Superficie de la chambre à gaz:
-actuelle: $98 \text{ m}^2 - 4 \text{ m}^2 [\text{sin}] = \underline{94 \text{ m}^2}$
-initiale: $17,00 \text{ m} \times 4,60 \text{ m} = 78,2 \text{ m}^2$

PLAN & FUENTES de L. C. PENSAU (Año 1985)

CHAPTER 3

BUNKER 1 or «The Red House» and its supposed mass graves

Study of Bunker I according to the testimonies of
Rudolf HOESS, Pery BROAD, Szlam[a] DRAGON, Maurice BENROUBI,
Milton BUKI and Moshe GARBARZ
and of its supposed mass graves, later cremation pits.

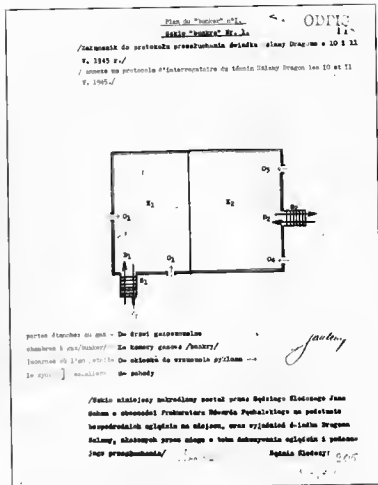
J Deposition by the eyewitness Szlam[a] DRAGON

[Extract from Volume 11 of the Hoest trial, annex 17]

Deposition recorded on 10th May 1945 by Judge Jan Sehn, concerning
Bunker 1:

+five hundred [in actual fact 300] metres further on [from Burster 2] there was another cottage designated bunker 1. This was also a small brick house divided into just two parts and able to contain altogether 2000 naked persons [Manliest exaggeration by the witness, practically the rule among all the early accounts. However gives the figure of 800, a "technicism" of detail, he knew what he was talking about, even if he also tended to massage the figures through - professional pride?]. These metres each had one entrance door and a small window. Near Burster 1, there was a small barn and two huts. The pits were much further apart. They were connected to the Burster [1] by narrow people rails =

The drawing of Bunker 1 by S. Dragon [Document 1], joined to his deposition, shows that the floor of Bunker 1 was higher than the surrounding land. In his deposition the two sets of steps leading to the doors are not mentioned.



Translation of the inscriptions:

- Annexe au protocole d'interrogatoire du témoin Szlomy Dragon les 10 et 11 V 1945/
- Annex to the interrogation protocol of the witness Szlomy Dragon of 10th and 11th May 1945.
- portes étanches au gaz/Gas-tight doors
- chambres à gaz, bunker/Gas chambers, bunker
- locaux où l'on jetait le zyklon/Windows where the Zyklon was thrown in
- escaliers/Steps

II/ Testimony of the SS man Pery Broad

I cite only for memory the «declaration by Pery Broad», published by the PMO as «Auschwitz: seen by the SS». Historically, this account is not exploitable in its present version despite its «true» and all too «striking» atmosphere, since it has been rewritten by and for the Poles and diffused exclusively by them. Document N° 11397 of 14/12/45 gives only a fleeting impression of the exact time that this «declaration» must have had. As for his famous account of 13/6/45 given to the British Intelligence Service and which really served as a basis for the Polish «declaration», the chief architect assumed one that the PMO did not possess the original, which was thought to be in England. Having never seen even a photocopy of the initial account of 13/6/45, I wonder what German «original» was used by the translator Helena Dziedzińska, as the Museum has not kept it. Furthermore, I fear that Pery Broad, even in his original account, was but a poor observer of the extermination installations. He describes Bunkers 1 and 2 thus:

«Not far from Birkenau, which was rapidly expanding, there were two small and pretty peasant cottages built on a pleasant site. Separately by a copse they were whitewashed and covered with nice blatched roofs. All around them there were trees»

There is an error in this text: the copse is a veritable forest, 800 metres across. Broad's testimony is above all a chronicle of a few striking events at the camp, incapable of providing precise details about the Bunkers and Krematoriums. After assuming a reticent, no conscientious historian will be able to use it unless and only the «declaration» has been stripped of the Polish influence, or in other words until the original is published.

III/ The testimony of Maurice BENROUBI concerning Bunker 1

Born on 27th December 1914 in Salonika, Greece, arrested in Le Mans on 16th July 1942, deported from Angers on 20th July 1942 by French convoy No. 8 (see «Le Mémorial de la déportation des Juifs de France» (Memorial of the Deportation of Jews from France) arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau on Thursday, 23rd July 1942, registered under the number 51.059 and evacuated from the Jawischowitz camp on 17th January 1945.

Historical note

Mr Maurice Benroubi, prisoner 51.059, was incorporated without knowing it in a group that might be called the «grave digger commando» in order to go to his work, he passed through the entrance gate of Birkenau I, took a northwesterly direction, crossed the future Birkenau II, precisely at the place where Krematorium IV and V were to be built, entered the forest and finally reached the Bunker 1 graves located in the heart of the Birkenwald (Birch Wood).

The operations of gassing and burying were kept strictly separate, as decided by the SS in charge according to their own interests. In 1942,

cremation of the victims was not yet practised on a large scale, due to a lack of resources, although the SS had started to seriously study this question (cf. the project of 21/8/42 proposed by Topf and Sons for the rapid construction of cremation furnaces near the «special action» bathing installations), the official designation of Bunkers 1 and 2)

The corpses of those gassed were loaded onto wooden platforms 2 metres by 3, fixed on narrow chassis. About 20 of these corpse transport wagons ran on narrow gauge rails from Bunker 1 to the vent into the Birch Wood. After 300 to 400 metres, the rails emerged into a large clearing where the mass graves were dug. The dimensions were 20 x 3 x 2.5 metres and there were apparently between a few dozen and a hundred of them, in which the victims were laid head to foot, without any disinfesting product such as slaked lime being used. The fall graves were covered with a thin layer of earth and left like that. According to Mr Benroubi, no particular odour was perceptible either at the graves or at the two gas chambers of Bunker 1. The filth in which the prisoners lived «40 days without a shower in the case of Mr Benroubi» no doubt explains this lack of sensitivity to the smell. However, Himmler's inspection visit to Birkenau on 15th July 1942, triggered a «study» visit by Camp Commandant Hoess, accompanied by Second Lieutenant Hübner and Dejaco to learn about the art of cremating at the Chelmsko [Kulmhof] camp on the Ner on 16/8/42. The result was that in November 1942, all the Birkenau graves were emptied and the human remains, some of them in an advanced stage of decomposition, were burnt. Between its creation and that date, the Birkenau camp and already c. 107,000 lives, taking all origins and causes of death together, as noted by commandant Hoess in his autobiography.

Transport from the «death march» of Auschwitz to station Bunkers 1 and 2 after the «elections», a practice that commenced in July 1942, was by truck

There are no ruins of Bunker 1, which was demolished at the end of 1942 or in early 1943. The information that has reached us on this provisional installation is scanty and based only on the testimonies of the few survivors. The rooms of an ordinary farm-house were turned into gas chambers by roughly sealing the windows, fitting gas-tight doors and making small apertures fitted with shutters in the wall alongside these doors as well as lead height. Through these the Zyklon-B was introduced.

According to several witnesses at the Dejaco and Ertl trial in Vienna in 1972, the Bauleitung produced no architectural drawings for this installation. Only Hoess seems to have made one, drawn by himself and in secret. In his autobiography [«Commandant of Auschwitz», pages 207-8], he recounts that together with Eichmann at the beginning of September 1944:

«We inspected the area in order to find a likely spot. We decided that a peasant farmstead, situated in the north-west corner of our later became the third building sector in Birkenau must be the very suitable (for extermination by gassing). It was isolated and screened by woods and hedges, and it was later not far from the railway. The bushes could be placed in long deep pits along the nearby meadows. We had no idea at that time thought of burning the corpses. We calculated that after gas poisoning the prisoners were available, it would be possible to kill about 800 people simultaneously with a suitable gas. These figures were borne out later in practice...»

he then goes on to say:

«A few days later I sent to the Reichsführer-SS by courier a detailed location plan and description of the installation (Bunker I). I have never received an acknowledgment or a decision on my report. Eichmann told me later that the Reichsführer-SS was in agreement with my proposals.»

This correspondence has not been found to date.

Himmler's late and indirect response was purely one of form. His real answer to Hoess, one month after the latter had sent his plan, was the arrival of SS-Hauptsturmführer (Captain) Bischoff to head the Auschwitz Bauleitung. Himmler, while he had been correct in his assessment of Hoess' capacity to successfully develop the «special action» of Auschwitz, had no illusions on certain of his «prejudice» qualities. Eichmann confirms this in his memoirs dictated to the journalist Sassen in Buenos Aires in 1957.

«In general, Hoess was certainly too limited to be able to control all the complexity of Auschwitz, but he had a complex general staff».

MAURICE BENROUBI'S TESTIMONY I

«We left the camp. We passed through small clearings, a little wood. About every 300 metres there was a watch tower»

Suddenly a discipline bell rang and started running in the direction of the camp shouting - Heil, Heil, Heil, Heil, I was to go back to the camp. We stopped, an SS man shouted to him to come back. He did not obey, the SS shot him. Five deportees were to be hanged there. Two hundred metres further on, another discipline bell rang as we were on the first. I could not understand a thing. It should be pointed out that Mr Benroubi in the time of his deportation did not speak or understand German, Yiddish or Polish. He was familiar with only French, Spanish and Greek. He describes himself as «a deaf and dumb man in the middle of a fire». Frequently it was not until after the event that he realised what had happened.

«...Ten minutes later I saw in the distance big heaps of corpses, as if they were already factory ready. By the approach, we could hear them better. They were all mixed up together like wooden dummies. Some had their cheeks torn. Their groin had been extracted. There were women, children babies».

We marched 200 metres and stopped in a clearing. Two SS officers were there and gave orders to the SS men. Further on about one hundred Sonderkommando men were pouring skeletons of men by the thousands on wheels joining a narrow gauge railway, taking the two gas chambers of Bunker 1 with the first graves of the Birkenwald and on them platforms there were corpses spread out on an top of the other. They put them in rows of graves about 20m long, 3m wide and 2.50m deep.

There were about ten graves ready to receive the martyrs. Parallel to these open graves there were some that had been covered with earth and these were called over 300 metres. It could not have been long since they were covered over. On the earth in places there were traces of light coloured decomposed fat mixed with blood. After receiving orders, the Caporali split us into groups. Some of our comrades took picks and shovels and jumped into the graves. As for me I went with other comrades to join the

Sonderkommando to transport the corpses like them. The men of the Sonderkommando received us with stone throwing and called us all sorts of names. They laughed and accused themselves the comrades making themselves accomplices of the SS to please them. Basically, it was that the next regime. All of a piece.

In this Kommando, the Caporali, the SS and the Sonderkommando all hit us and threw us on the heads of bodies to laugh at our fear. The SS had said and every day we had to take to assassinated comrades back to the camp to be counted at the evening roll call.

All midday the Sonderkommando ate separately and we ate far from them, alone in double rows and a few potatoes. There was also a distribution of bread from a convoy, alive and even mouldy. Some comrades exchanged non-mouldy bread for mouldy and in order to have a bigger quantity. Little pools of water floated in the graves and as we were very thirsty, we quickly jumped down and dipped up the water and climbed out again very fast. We were reduced to the state of animals.

One morning we had hardly arrived and were getting ready to pick up the picks and shovels, when an SS who was waiting for us ordered the guards to keep marching and to follow him. We crossed the entire clearing and took the track along which the wagons arrived.

We arrived in another clearing. There were two big concrete blocks [the buildings known as «Bunker 1»] of about 20m wide and perhaps as many long. Near these blocks there were three mounds of bodies. One of men, one of women and one of children under.

The Sonderkommando men received us as on previous occasions with stone throwing and abuse. We stopped in front of the big heaps of corpses and the Caporali made us understand that we had to load the corpses on the wagon platforms and transport them to the empty graves. We rushed to the wagons and started working like mad. So what mattered most was to get away from the gas chambers

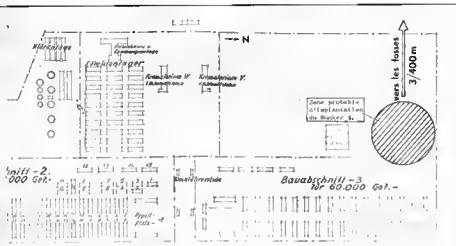
One morning the doctor of the Birkenau, as they called them, were open, I noticed that there were shower heads and along the walls clothes hooks. I remember that a comrade made signs to me to make me understand that we should never look at that direction, when I saw that, I said I don't want to be shot of by a security don't look. In fact I said that all the comrades were working with their backs to the Bunkers to avoid giving even the slightest glance towards the two extermination Bunkers

One day, arriving at work, I saw electricians installing lamp posts by the empty graves and big taps. I immediately realised that there were also going to be night shifts.

The same day, on 4th September 1942, after the roll call, there was a selection and contrary to what normally happened every time there was a selection, this time the Nazis chose the strongest, the most healthy

We waited a good hour before departing. A comrade said to me «What are you doing amongst us? Don't you hear the order that those who worked in the Sonderkommando must not to step out of the range?». I was disoriented...

After two hours march we arrived in the Jawischowitz camp.



Document 2:
Situation plan showing the probable location of Bunker 1 and the mass graves

Translation of inscriptions (from top to bottom and left to right):

- Baubeschritt 2 für 60.000 Gef/Construction stage II, for 60,000 prisoners
- Kläranlage/Sewage treatment plant
- Desinfektion u. Entwässerungsanlage/Disinfection and detousing installation
- Elektronanlage/Electrics camp
- Appellplatz/Parade ground [for roll calls]
- Krematorium IV i Achtmuffelofen/ eight-muffle furnace
- Krematorium V i Achtmuffelofen/ eight-muffle furnace
- Blockflügel/Block leaders' rooms
- Zone probable d'implantation du Bunker 1/Probable area of location of Bunker 1
- Vers les fosses/To the mass graves
- Baubeschritt 3 für 60.000 Gef/Construction stage III, for 60,000 prisoners

Additional details:

I had a conversation, recorded on magnetic tape, with Mr. Bernoulli. These additional details come either from his personal account, or in response to the questions he was asked.

Arrival at the Bunker 1 gas chambers and reception of the victims:

«The children – about 50 or 60 – were holding hands in ranks of five and arrived at the Bunker accompanied by about ten detainees in civilian clothes, glad to be with their parents. The members of the Sonderkommando greeted them kindly. Some people had babies in their arms and the Sonderkommando helped them, advancing towards them some hundreds of metres before the gas chamber with a friendly attitude. Like when you receive members of the family.»

«To give the deportees confidence and make them enter the showers, i.e. the gas chambers, quietly, the Sonderkommando inmates were dressed in white and acted as if they belonged to the hospital service.»

On Bunker 1:

«The Bunker was a brick-built house with the windows filled in. We had to turn our backs to the Bunker when we picked up the corpses, never look at the gas chambers...»

And yet, it one day had a future place:

«Twenty metres from me there was a door still open of the railing or sliding type, and beyond it on one side a ground floor door through which we shot see shower heads. From the back no sliding was visible. The Sonderkommando took the people out of the gas chambers and twenty metres away threw them into separate piles of women, children and old men.»

«There was no colour around the gas chambers nor the graves, despite the lack of fat that oozed out of them»

IV/ Declaration by Mr. Milton BUKI (former given names Majtech Michal)

Declaration made before a notary on 15th December 1980 in Jerusalem under reference No 623/80 Extracts concerning Bunker 1:

«On 10th December 1942, I, was arrested by the Germans and transported to Auschwitz where I arrived on the 12th of that month.

The next morning at 5 a'clock, an SS officer accompanied by several men entered us to go outside and took us to a brick farmhouse on the edge of a wood. In front of this house there were about 40 corpses of about 77 men. We loaded their bodies onto brolleys mounted on narrow gauge rails. The door of the house was then opened by an SS man. We saw that the interior was full of corpses, some lying some standing and others hanging onto one another. About twenty minutes or perhaps half an hour later the door was opened: we were given the order to remove the bodies and clear them on the brolleys.

The bodies were all naked and some had blue stains on them. We took the brolleys to a grave about 40 metres long and I think about 6 metres wide which was about 100 metres (actually 300 to 400) from the house. Before the grave there was another group of corpses who threw the bodies into the hole. We learned that we formed part of a group called a «Sonderkommando» whose job was to transport the bodies of the passed to the grave...

While on the first occasion, an were taken to the house after the passing had already taken place, later we were already there when the convoys arrived. Under these conditions I was able to see the whole process. The men, women and children were made to undress in a shed near the house. They were then obliged to walk very quickly or even run between two areas of SS who held flags. In this way they reached the open door of the house and went in. They were told that it was simply a shower for disinfection purposes, after which they would be admitted to the camp to work there under normal conditions. When the interior of the house was absolutely full the door was closed. Doctor Mengele who was often present or another doctor replacing him, gave an SS man the order to inject the gas. To do this he climbed several steps by the side wall of the house and introduced through a little chimney (opening) the contents of the can that he opened with a knife. About twenty minutes after the injection of the gas, the door was opened and the work of emptying the bodies commenced about half an hour afterwards. After being taken back to Block 11, an could see the flames that consumed the bodies in the grave.»

This witness certainly never knew that he had worked at Bunker 1, but two details prove that he did, «a red brick cottage», this is the red house and «a low steps» to climb for access to the opening where the Zyklon-B was introduced is a detail not reported by S. Dragon but confirmed by his drawing. The witness speaks of one gas chamber and one access door. Looking at the drawing of Bunker 1, it can be seen that an observer situated below and to the left would be able to see only one door (D1) and only one side opening for introducing the toxic gas (G1). The gassing took place in chamber K 1. The period, December 1942, indicated by the witness for his time at Bunker 1 is correct. Before November 1942, the bodies were not incinerated, afterwards they were.

V/ The testimony of Moshe Maurice GARBARZ

Written with his son Elie and published by editions Plon in Paris in 1984 under the title «Un Survivant». Trapped like Mr Bernoulli, Mr Garbarz escaped from the work at Bunker 1 in the same way as he did through being detailed for the Jawnschowitz command. [Extracts from «Un Survivant».

(1) DEPARTURE FROM THE CAMP [page 115]

By the seventh day I had lost my last hope of escaping. It was finished I was trapped. In the evening, for some unknown reason, we came back to the camp a little earlier. Perhaps our SS had a lot of work and preferred to avoid leaving us hanging about over there. We had hardly gone through the gate when the camp loudspeakers made an announcement

-Volunteers are wanted for a column, but the seven electricians must not present themselves.-

For me it was a case of letting my present commands or dying then. Seeing the poorest victims and suffering in the rubbish road was absolutely unbearable and made me ill. I made my decision - if they catch me, too bad! I'm going to die!*

They lined up before an SS doctor. We understood that he could check that we were not "mussulmans", this is the 11 men still remained some flesh on our buttocks. In addition, he made us jump over a ditch 50 or 100 centimetres wide for me it was child's play, but not for the deportees. Fortunately our SS man wasn't there, otherwise he would have recognised me.

However, while Mr Benroubi was unaware of his "luck" which he in fact thought was a misfortune, Mr Gebarz knew exactly what he was doing. The two men worked almost side by side at from 4th September 1942, without ever getting to know one another.

[Extracts from -On Survivors-

(8) THE SEVERAL COMMANDS [pages 108 to 115]

One morning the work of our electrician commandos was interrupted: inspection. We had to line up in a single row and not in lines. An SS came along. He chose seven deportees including myself and Grastin (the future chief electrician of Jawischewitz). We seven had no idea what job awaited us. All we knew was that it was electrical work. I was scared - Now they're going to see that I know nothing about electricity, that I'm an amateur who had one idea at the time!

The SS doctor said if we were real tradesmen, I noticed other strange things that we've never seen such as small commands, seven people! What is more an SS took the place of Gago and then not an ordinary SS were but an Untersturmführer, the equivalent (I think, of a sergeant).

But back to my new commands. The SS was marching three metres from us. I don't know whether he was afraid of being attacked or whether he was simply trying to avoid meeting our smile. Contrary to habit, he had nothing. He did not accuse us of marching too slowly or incorrectly. If he had not wanted to know the SS, he would have thought that it was a man like other men, and not a machine for killing and torturing.

Of course, during the march he addressed us in friendly terms, but friendly, with the voice of a father addressing his children, explaining our future privileges. Each of us would have them cigarettes and a bottle of beer or another drink of our choice (the water was terrible). We would also sit and in a week's time if we worked well, we would have new clothes and the official right to wash ourselves: we couldn't wait for a father's love.

At seven of us, an arrival, without exchanging a word, understood why our SS had been so benevolent. Immediately my stomach turned over. We sat by rectangles traced on the ground twenty or thirty metres wide by fifty or sixty metres long. In one of them the ground was raised. Three regularly spaced posts with reflectors on top stood in the middle. The second rectangle was a simple outline on the ground, the soil was the normal colour and raised of the posts, three poles had been dug.

The SS explained: -You see the installation here (he pointed the posts in the first rectangle). Over there (he showed the second rectangle) the same thing. You're the electricians, go to it. Then he withdrew fifty or forty metres. Why so far? I do not know. Perhaps the previous commandos had revolted?

We began our work. One of seven included only two real professionals. One had never given special notice to heat travel to the top of the poles. He disconnected the electricity he had brought down the wires and the reflector. They were ourselves impulsion to pull out the posts. And then without in the red, and the red was black! The first contact with I gave us the shivers had we lost the power to speak. And yet we already knew about it. Between knowing and experiencing there is a gap no comparison. Underneath us there were men like us and, besides, the work of our superior officers was also beneath our feet.

We carried the three posts, weighed more in the holes that had already been dug and installed the reflectors. This first day we scarcely worked three hours. Then we stayed short in the 10 where we ate. We were forbidden to look at what was happening outside.

The second day we were on the site a little earlier than the first. We had to wait a distance until the beacons were installed (I had the my compasses and I called it in Yiddish: the German word is Senderkommando - special Kommando) finished its work - work that I don't describe for you in a moment.

As the days went by our Untersturmführer became more and more negligent in his surveillance of us. What was the point? It was impossible for us to escape. So we were everything without really trying to.

We saw a sort of barn closed on three sides, identical to those where we farmers keep the hay, had not for them three or four pretty little buildings like country houses, only the first of which was made enough to be clearly visible.

The arrivals arrived, adult men and little boys together, women, girls had babies waiting. They went completely naked, in groups of twenty towards the little house. Despite the distance, we could see that they were not afraid. A strange commando, dressed in pants, led them - four men only, just two SS. When the people had entered the house, they were shut in by a heavy strong door.

When the door was well and truly locked, an SS dressed with a cane (he had his stick inside that a bit of pain) and disappeared from our eyes, hidden by the house. Then, we heard a bang, that of some opening, a trap must rather than a window. Twice after that bang, we heard the prayer SHEMA (SHEMA - JUSTIN ISRAEL, Eternal is our God, the Eternal is also... a three Jewish prayer), then we heard cries, the very lovely.

From time to time, at the last minute, just before disappearing behind the door, the people understood. I saw one group of men revolt. The case had been too tense, a commando of four or five men was waiting inside the entrance and pushed them inside while an SS used his revolver to shoot some in the head.

The external aspect of the little house was an ordinary that such incidents were very rare. In seven days, I saw only one revolt with my own eyes. But others took place, for several times, later also we heard the same characteristic sound of a shot at point blank range.

As we returned to the morning of the second day. The rectangle where we had the previous day installed the posts had been dug out and transformed into a kind of empty swimming pool with clearly cut edges, about one metre fifty deep. The ground had been left around our posts to stop them falling.

Some rails were installed, starting one metre from the site house. As soon as the Jews were grouped, a new wire came along and added rails as far as the edge of the swimming pool. This group also belonged to the beacons commandos. The men of the SS commandos also well they were properly dressed. They lived entirely separately and no longer returned to our camp in camp. The SS had that in a week we would be enrolled with them. So I was not less than a week in which I had to try something, however desperate.

We saw the special commandos just platform trays on the rails. Then they brought out the men, women had children who had been given to look over an Free rail wagon. In order alert too early on the way, they stacked were two sacks of flour, five tins, five tins.

They work was tough and their Cape, a German, would also slow a moment's rest. He was constantly crying - Schreier! Schreier! (Faster! Faster!) otherwise I'd like you to, it'd give you the sport and he looked them. All the very women had children were very quickly quiet in the hole and covered with earth.

Then we were into action, waiting in human dead to recover the lamp posts. I could not understand why the corpses died. The pressure when they heaped earth on them? Or the effect of the gas? My six companions had received almost new shoes, but not because my mountain shoes were still in good condition.

At night, another commando certainly came to dig a new swimming pool around the light of our lamp posts because we found it the next morning in the ground. I never saw the commandos, a commando said that once he was in a group that had that task. He was taken from his hut, with many other deportees perhaps 200. They did not belong to the beacons commandos but were from the camp and had not guessed the purpose of this hole.

On the fourth day we were allowed to approach the special commando to the door of a gas chamber. What we shocked us. Whole families huddled together in bunches. Dead children sat clinging to their mothers, and separating them was a horrible task. All of them had died, eyes had looked towards faces. They had brought a transport of women with their children. It seemed to us that most of them had strangled their children and we could understand their wanting the child's killing would be unbearable. They had preferred to shorten the suffering by killing them with their own hands.

For the worst of the beacons commandos, it didn't have them just as well! We imagined one of them by chance seeing his mother or sister or father or wife or a member of his family. What could he do? Nothing.

One day Grastin, the electrician, went into the little houses to repair a wire and told us: -The interior is empty, very clear, without any windows. I don't have time to look in detail, I was already scared -

From our position, we could see six victims only to the moment when they arrived near the closest gas chamber. Some also thought that they took off their clothes in the barn, but I disagreed. In them they would have discovered

a store of masses of hair, classified by colour, stocks of dolls, spectacles, clothing, everything left across and neatly stacked. They would realise that it was a trap. Furthermore, the women would realise to undress in public. No, every option there was a little further away and hidden from our eyes, but where the people addressed better a painting behind the barn without ever seeing its content.

Recently I have been trying to collect all my memories of the gas chambers into a coherent work. But in my head they appear as a series of photographs, clear and bright. I can look at them as I like, but have difficulty in arranging them logically.

So the hole was enormous, designed to bury several thousand Jews. In any case it was contained only a few corpses, the ground would not have been impregnated with blood. New, four houses and twenty persons per house was not enough to fill such a swimming pool.

I believe that the beacons worked a good part of the night. We saw only the last group of victims, the previous ones being already buried in the grave. However, such an explanation does not agree with another of my memories: one morning on arriving I went to the edge of the grave. I was made to back away, I had a chance to see the depth and it was still empty. I think that at that particular night, the beacons for once had never finished the work. They were empty going to be filled with the bodies of corpses killed in the camp. It was necessary to put the bodies and all the time the Kramatorian was still not completed.

These little gas houses belonged to the first type of installation at Birkenau. They were later replaced by industrial gas chambers where a thousand people at a time were liquidated but not buried immediately pushed into the Kramatorian. I fortunately was not a witness of that, but was informed indirectly.

On the other hand, I learnt from the mouth of an eye witness, Shmuel Hapkin (a prisoner with the number 45808 who had not come from Pławiak but from Beauvais-la-Rolande) what happened to our swimming pools for corpses. I leave him to tell the story.

-When the first Kramatorian furnace was operational, the victims were returned to be burnt. I was in the commandos that I discovered the dead, thousands of dead.

We washed through a mass of purifying bodies and mud. We should have had gas masks. The bodies seemed to come along the surface, as if the ground didn't want them. What you write through, Maurice is not needed because that. After a week I thought I was going mad and decided to commit suicide by letting myself die, as many comrades had done around me.

I was saved by a friend who worked at Kanada, the Red Dicks! coming down. He couldn't stand seeing all these corpses and personal objects coming from gassed Jews. He succeeded in getting into the bodyless commandos as an instructor, and he gave me his place.

Two months later I met a deportee still employed on disinfecting the dead. He says that the ground had heaved. The soil and the bodies had to be broken up by machines -

VII The floor area of Bunker 1 (Rudolf HOESS)

According to Camp Commandant Hoess, Bunker 1 could contain 200 victims, while Bunker 2 with a total surface area of 105m² and a usable area of 90m² could take 1200, i.e. 13 persons per square metre. This is an exaggerated figure, since it is possible to squish together only 8-10 persons per square metre. In reality, Bunker 2 absorbed no more than 700-900. However, if we assume that the figures given by Hoess are both exaggerated in the same proportion, it is possible to calculate the metal floor area of Bunker 1 by dividing its capacity by the number of persons per m², i.e. 60m² and including the walls a total ground area of a little under 70m² which could hold only a batch of 450-600 victims.

CONCLUSIONS

In order to try to adopt a valid approach to Bunker 1, I have cited six witnesses: two SS and four former prisoners:

1. Rudolf Hoess speaks only of the genesis of Bunker 1. He was the direct initiator of the installation comprising, according to him, a converted farmhouse and two underground beds. Extinction capacity 800 persons.
2. Percy Broad never described Bunkers 1 and 2, but in reality only Bunker 2, as can be proved, i.e. the white house(s).
3. Szlajm[a] Dragon, while he worked at Bunker 2 and knew this place perfectly, devoted only a few lines to Bunker 1, which means that he visited it but little. Yet he is the only one to give a precise description of the then known as Bunker 1: a small house converted into two gas chambers, a small barn and two bunks. In the light of certain other testimonies, this description, which was considered sound, calls for a certain caution.
4. Maurice Benroubi mentions Bunker 1 as comprising only «two blocks» with one or more gas chambers. His account is not situated, but the indication of 300 to 400 metres separating the graves from the Bunker called a brick house (of reddish colour), indicates that he was certainly speaking of Bunker 1.
5. Milton Babi by 1980 remembered only «a farm cottage of brick» with a few steps and the mass graves some distance off. These elements indicate fairly certainly that he was speaking of Bunker 1.

6. Moshe Garbuz was only able to see Bunker very far off as he worked at the graves and I hesitated a long time before situating his account. Was it Bunker 1 or Bunker 2? I have decided in favour of 1 because of a single detail that agrees with S. Dragon's deposition: the presence of a barn. Historically, this is not sufficient, but with all due caution, two factors come to reinforce the thesis that Bunker 1 was involved: the strange Sonderkommando dressed in white and his participation in the erection of the jumps for night work, facts mentioned by Mr Benroubi. But in order to accept that Mr Garbuz' account is concerned with Bunker 1, it has to be admitted that a straight path wide enough for the circulation of the wagon (hence 6 or 7 metres wide) was cut through the forest and gave a direct view between two places, Bunker 1 and its graves. Nothing Mr Benroubi says confirms this point, and would even seem to contradict it. Another clue would indicate that it was Bunker 1, the distance of the observation. In the area of Bunker 2 and its graves, observation is direct and of no more than 50 to 100 metres maximum. A distance of 300 to 400 metres would better explain the account of this witness. In addition to the barn, he also mentions two or three houses where there were small gas chambers able to handle about twenty persons at a time per house, or 80 in all. This is far from the figure put forward by R. Hoess, 800. Lastly, I would stress that Mr Garbuz' testimony is by no means early, his book, dating from 1984.

It is impossible to make a synthesis of all these accounts. A drawing of Bunker 1 and the associated installations would make it possible to judge the value of the testimonies, which include many personal impressions, but few precise details on the gas chambers. These participants could hardly have imagined in 1942 that they would become the «privileged few» who witnessed an incredible episode and lived to tell the tale. All they knew was hunger, cold and the wish to save their own skins. The rest did not exist.

There was no drawing made except, it would appear, for a situation plan drawn by Hoess, and Bunker 1 was carefully dismantled without leaving any ruins. Without any material traces, the location [Dawson 1], internal organisation [Dawson 1], and the arrangement of the different annexes of Bunker 1 will never be clearly elucidated. In its purpose, the extermination of human beings by gassing, cannot be called into question, it only because of the constant repetition of an identical process in the accounts of former prisoners, unless late certain revisionists of and lastly we claim that the witnesses were all lying, including the SS.

THE SUPPOSED MASS GRAVES, SUBSEQUENTLY CREMATION PITS, ATTRIBUTED TO BUNKER 1: IN REALITY SEWAGE DECONTAMINATION BASINS

The plan of the Birkenau camp [Dawson 1] is thus presented by G. Wellers in «Les chambres à gaz ont existé» [The gas chambers did exist], which was taken from Hermann Langbein's book «Der Auschwitz-Prozess», [the Auschwitz Trial], pp. 930-931.

Comparison with other plans of Birkenau reveals that it is of very mediocre quality as regards many details. I present it here simply to demonstrate the difficulty historians had in situating Bunker 1 and its incineration discharges in 1945, and indeed still have today, and the errors that can result.

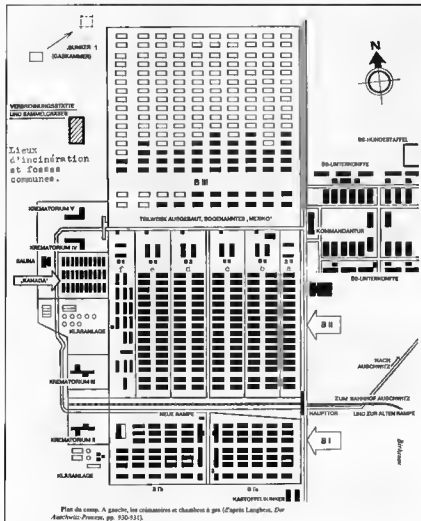
Documents 4 and 5, together with drawings 253(2) [Document 4] and 3386 [Document 5] prove without doubt that these are the provisional sewage decontamination basins of B.A. III, dug alongside drainage ditch F while awaiting the building of the future sewage treatment plant for B.A. III, which was in fact never completed.

Thanks to the testimonies of survivors of the burial Kommando, we now know that the Bunker 1 graves were 300 to 400 metres to the WEST of the Bunker, not to the SOUTH, and were dug actually IN the Birch Wood in order to be hidden from view.

It can be seen that drawing 253(2) shows neither orientation nor situation, but by reference to drawing 3386, showing the second planned version of sewage plant III, we can locate the two basins in the proximity of Graben [drainage ditch] F, on the western edge of the third construction stage of Birkenau. Photo 1 also confirms this location of the basins. On Photo 2, at the end of the basin is the Besiegender Weg [extinct road] shown on drawing 3386.

I have presented Langbein's «Auschwitz-Prozess» plan reproduced by G. Wellers, not to accuse them of «misinformation», for their books are sound and honest and have become classics of K.L. Auschwitz history, but to illustrate the difficulty of rectifying a mistaken interpretation even on a minor point. In this case two photographs and two drawings are required.

Captions: Plan of the camp. On the left are the Krematorien and gas chambers (from Langheim, «Der Auschwitz-Prozess», pp. 930-931).



Translation of inscriptions
(from top to bottom and left to right).

- Bunker 1 (Gaskammer)/Bunker 1 (gas chamber)
- Verbrennungsorte und Sammelgräber/
Cremation site and mass graves
- Krematorium V
- Krematorium IV
- Sauna/The «Zentral Sauna» disinfection installation
- «Kanada»/Canada effects sorting camp
- Kläranlage/Sewage treatment plant
- Krematorium III
- Krematorium II
- Kläranlage/Sewage treatment plant
- Toiletten ausgebaut, sogenannte «Mexiko»/
Partly completed, known as «Mexico»
- Neue Rampe/New ramp (where deportees detained)
- Karinfeldbunker/Potato store
- SS-Hundestaffel/SS dog handlers
- SS-Unterkünfte/SS accommodation
- Kommandantur/Camp Headquarters
- SS-Unterkünfte/SS accommodation
- Nach Auschwitz/To Auschwitz
- Zum Bahnhof Auschwitz/
To Auschwitz station
und zur alten Rampe/and to the old ramp
- Haupttor/Main gate

Abschrift/Go

30. März 1942.

Einschreiben
Waffen-SS Hauptstabsamt

37

Stgh.-Nr.: 5016/42/Kr./Lp.

Reich Ironastopfen, Rindseherungsöffnen für K.G.L. Anschwitz
Reich Dienstbesprechung mit dem Amtshof Q/III SS-Stabsf. Wirtz
am 25.III.1942 in Anschwitz.

Anlage 1 Fotokopie und 3 Pläne, 1 Abschrift

Am
SS-Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamt
Abt. Gruppe C
Der Chef des Amtes Q/III

Berlin - Lichterfeld-Weg
Unter den Eichen 126 - 135

Für das Kriegsgefangenenlager der Waffen-SS in Anschwitz
waren ursprünglich 2 Stück Dreimuffel-Rindseherungsöffnen in
einfacher Form, wie aus beiliegenden Zeichnungen ersichtlich,
geplant.

Bei der Dienstbesprechung am 27.II.1942 mit dem Amte-
gruppenchef SS-Oberführer Dr. Ing. Kammler in Anschwitz wurde
angewiesen, daß die für das K.G.L. bestimmten 5 Stück Dreimuffel-
Öfen in K.G.L. zur Aufstellung gelangen und waren somit die
2 Stück Dreimuffel-Rindseherungsöffnen überflüssig. Die Firma
Topf und Söhne, Erfurt, will nun bei der Bearbeitung des
Projektes entstandenen Vertriebs- und Verwaltungskosten in
Höhe von

RM 1.769,36

in Rechnung stellen.

Bei der Dienstbesprechung am 25.III.1942 mit dem Chef
des Amtes Q/III SS-Stabsf. Wirtz wurde verabredet, das Projekt
für die Ausführung von 2 Stück Dreimuffel-Rindseherungsöffnen
auf ein anderes Bauvorhaben umzuschlagen.

Es wird gebeten die Firma Topf und Söhne, Erfurt,
dahingehend zu unterrichten. Zur Klarstellung der Angelegen-
heit wird eine Abschrift des Vorganges beigegeben.

F.d.S.d.A.

Der Leiter der Zentral-Bauleitung
der Waffen-SS und Polizei Anschwitz

Geo. Bischoff
SS-Hauptstabsführer (S)

Document 9
[PHO file BW 33/34, page 37]

Translation:

Krema II BW 30

30th March 1942

Copy/Go

To be registered

Correspondence register no 5816/42/Kr/Lp
Subject: Crematorium, incineration furnace for Auschwitz POW camp
[Birkeau]
Reference: Conversation with the Head of Office C/III, SS Major Wirtz, on
25/3/42 at Auschwitz
Enclosure: 1 photocopy, 3 drawings, 1 copy

SS Economic and Administrative Head Office
Abt. Gruppe C
Head of Office C/III
Berlin-Lichterfeld-Weg
Unter den Eichen 126-135

As shown on the enclosed drawings, two 3-muffle incineration furnaces were originally planned for
the Waffen-SS POW camp at Auschwitz

During our conversation of 27/2/42 with the Head of the Amt, Gruppe, SS Oberführer (senior
Colonel) Dr Ing Kammler, at Auschwitz, it was decided that the 3 three-muffle furnaces planned
for the KL (concentration camp) should be installed at the KGL (POW camp), and that consequently
the two 3-muffle furnaces would be superfluous to requirements. Messrs Topf & Sons of Erfurt now
want to invoice the operating and administrative costs incurred in studying the project at
1,769.36 RM

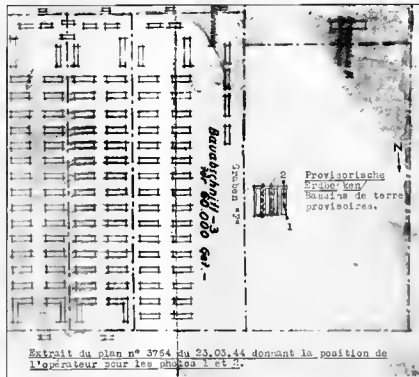
During our conversation of 25/3/42 with the Head of Office C/III, SS Major Wirtz, it was agreed that
the two 3-muffle incineration furnaces should be transferred to another construction project

We would therefore ask you to inform Messrs Topf & Sons of Erfurt. In order to clarify the situation
we enclose a copy of this matter.

Head of Waffen SS and Police
Construction Management Auschwitz

Signed Bischoff
SS Captain (S)

For Auschwitz Archives



Document 5a
Fragment of drawing 3754 of 23/3/44 showing the position of the photographer for
Documents 4(F1) and 5(F2).

Translation of inscriptions:

- Baubehälter 3 für 60.000 Gef./Construction stage III for 60,000 prisoners
- Graben F/Ditch F
- Provisorische Erdböden/Provisional earth basins



Document 4 (Photo 1/P1):
[Photo PMO neg. no. 20995/456]

North-south view of the westernmost provisional decantation basin. On the extreme left, the north ends and west sides of three of the «Unterbaul u. Effekthaus», Wäusche/accommodation and effects buildings, lines» constructed to the west of B.III, along drainage ditch F.



Document 5 (Photo 2/P2):

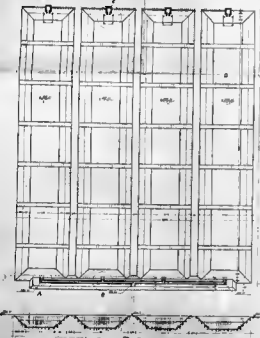
[Photo PMO neg. no. 20995/457]

South-north view of one of the four provisional earth decantation basins of Birkenau III. The wooden maintenance bridges crossing the basin have not yet been installed. In the background is the «existing road» mentioned on drawing 3306. These basins are still visible today, as they appear on the photo, but overgrown with trees and scrub.

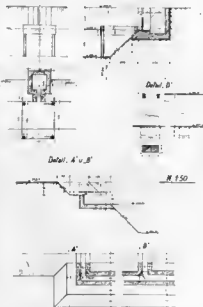
Abwage KGL BAR NWB

Provisorische Erdbecken.

Kilnschlager III
Maßstab 1:200 Die Höhen sind auf Adria bezogen



Detail C



Plan Gabelwehr

Maßstab 1:200



Translation of inscriptions

- Die Höhen sind auf Adria bezogen/heights are with respect to «Adriatic»
- Molz. Gelfinder/wooden bridges
- Maßstab 1:100/scale 1:100
- Verteilung mit Detail/distribution gate [slice] with detail

Document 6

Drawing 23346(2) (PMO neg. no. 30943/19)

Kilnschlager K.G.L. B.A. III NW 18

Sewage treatment plant POW camp Birkau III, BW 18
PROVISORISCHE ERDBECKEN: Kilnschlager III(Provis.) (with basin, sewage plant III)
Scale 1:200

Drawing 23346(2) drawn by gesamm. 23346 on 15/6/43,
checked by an unknown and approved by Bischoff on 5/7/43.

Document 7

Drawing 3386 (PMD reg. No. 20843/30)

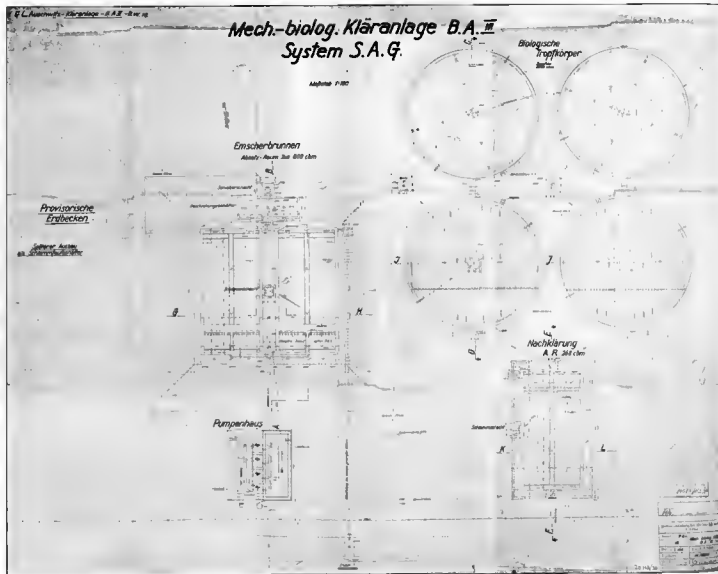
8 G.L. Auswässer-Kläranlage B.A. III BW 18
Anschluß P.M.W. camp sewage treatment plant Birkenau III BW 18
MECH. BIOLOG. KLÄRANLAGE B.A. III SYSTEMS A.G. Mechanical
and biological purification plant for Birkenau III, S.A.G. System
Scale 1:100

Drawing 3386 drawn by engineer 72231 on 14/12/43,
checked by Detach on 22/12/43 and approved by Detach.

Translation of inscriptions

- Provisorische Erdbecken/provisional earth basins
- Späterer Anbau als Schlammfällbehälter/
later conversion to sludge digester basin
- Emischerbrunnen/digester reservoir
- Schieberbehälter/sludge well
- Beschickungsbehälter/feed tank
- Schlammabschicht/sludge well
- Pumpenhäuser/pump house
- Biologische Tropfkörper/biological bacteria
bed
- Nachklärung/final decantation
- Graben/Drainage ditch F

This drawing shows the second version, the first being
identical to that of Birkenau B.A. II, of the Birkenau B.A.
III sewage treatment plant proposed by the Bundesrat,
this one integrating in the installation the four
provisional earth basins, transforming them into sludge
digester tanks.



BUNKER 2 (Subsequently renamed BUNKER V) or the «WHITE HOUSE» and its undressing huts

Study of Bunker 2 and its undressing huts
according to the written testimonies of
Szlam[a] DRAGON, Pery BROAD, Rudolf HOESS,
Miklos NYISZLI, Filip MÜLLER,
the pictorial testimony of DAVID OLÈRE

Historical note

Located 350 metres due west of the Zentral Sauna, the installation now is Bunker 2 seems, according to Szlam[a] DRAGON and the AMO, to have consisted of a whitewashed farmhouse (hence the name «white house») whose converted interior held four gas chambers of different sizes, with an overall floor area of 105m², two sheds serving as undressing rooms and a certain number of cremation ditches, four on 10th December 1942 according to the witness S. Dragon. His description perfectly describes the «working» of Bunker 2, which operated from summer 1942 to spring 1943: when it was abandoned in favour of Krematorium IV and II, which had recently entered service.

In summer 1944 Bunker 2 was reactivated to participate in the Hungarian actions. It was now known as Bunker V, logical enough when one considers that in the Brezinka camp the new Krematorium II, I, IV and V were usually referred to as I, II, III and IV respectively, the old, abandoned Krematorium I at Auschwitz being forgotten. It is difficult to say at this stage whether the Bunker was used in the same way in 1944 as in 1942 or whether the internal walls had been knocked down so that it now comprised a single gas chamber roughly 7m wide and 14 long. Filip Müller relates that it operated in 1944 as in 1942, but his evidence in the form of a book dates from 1979, and by then he was certainly familiar with the deposition of S. Dragon. Doctor Miklos Nyiszli speaks of a «hatched» roof house whose plan was peeling off and suggests that «operations must have divided the interior into rooms», implying that there were none when he went to Bunker 2 V. The doctor relates an episode in the summer of 1944 in which the functioning of Bunker V had changed. From a gas chamber it had turned into an undressing room. His account concerns a period when

there was a lack of Zyklon-B because of a supply problem and during which the victims were pushed directly into the cremation ditches after being killed by a shot in the back of the neck, or even still alive. David Olère sketched such a scene of pure dementia, situated at behind Krematorium V, a place where Staff Sergeant Möll acted in a particularly brutal way (described in Part II, Chapter 7 on Krematorium IV and V). David Olère's 1945 sketch showing a hatched cottage must be a memory from before this insane period, when Bunker V was working «normally» with Zyklon-B.

For the study of Bunker 2/V, I present as witnesses: Szlam[a] DRAGON, the main one, Pery BROAD, Filip MÜLLER, Miklos NYISZLI and DAVID OLÈRE. There are still others of course. The first two testimonies are concerned with the period 1942-1943 and the last three with the summer of 1944. They do not contradict one another, for they are describing different periods. The present ruins of Bunker 2/V make it possible, should there be any need, to judge their testimony.

I/ The testimony of Szlam[a] DRAGON

concerning Bunker 2, recorded on 10th May 1945 [Volume 11 of the Hoess trial, pages 102 to 121]

The next day, on the morning of 10th December 1942, once all the barracks had gone to work, MÖLL (then Untersturmführer/Sergeant, later to be Hauptsturmführer/Staff Sergeant and head of the Brezinka Krematorium) arrived at Block 14 and gave the order: «Sonderkommando! raus! (out outside)! It was thus that we learnt that we were detailed, not to the rubber

factory (Buna) but to a Sonderkommando and we did not realise what the war had already taken away from us the slightest suspicion of it. On Möll's order, we went out of the block and were divided that two groups of 100 men each to be marched out of the camp by the SS.

We were taken to a forest where there was a cottage covered with thatch, its windows bricked in. On the door leading to the interior of the cottage was a metal plate with the inscription «Hochbrennung - Leberlager (at high temperature - danger» (Document 3). Figure 2]. Thirty or forty metres from this cottage there were two wooden huts (huts 1 and 2 in Drawing 1). On the other side of the cottage there were four pits 20 metres long, 7 metres wide and 3 metres deep (above in drawing 1), then edges black with smoke. We were lined up in front of the house. Möll arrived and told us we would work here at burning old and new people that we would be given something to eat and in the evening we would be taken back to the camp. He added that those who did not accept the work would be beaten, otherwise the dogs set on them. The SS who escorted us were accompanied by dogs. Then he split us into a number of groups. I myself and eleven others were detailed as we learnt later, to remove the bodies from the cottage. We went all over the mass and led to the door of the cottage. When Möll had opened the door, we saw that the cottage was full of naked corpses of both sexes and of all ages. Möll ordered us to move these corpses from the cottage to the yard, in front of the door. We started work with four men carrying one body. This annoyed Möll. He pulled up his sleeves and threw a body that the yard. When, despite this example, we saw we were incapable of doing this, he allowed us to carry there two men a body. Once the corpses were laid in the yard, the detail, escorted by an SS man, pulled out the teeth (Dragon targets the removal of rings and jewels, unless these had been removed earlier), and the barber,

also washed by an SS man, out of the hair. Another group loaded the bodies onto wagons running on rails that led to the edge of the pits. These rails ran between two pits (Document 1 (Drawing 1)). Six another group prepared the pit for burning the corpses. First of all, big logs were put in the bottom (Document 9 sketch by David Olère). The logs are on the right, along the wall of the undressing hut, then smaller and smaller wood, in cross-cross fashion, and finally dry twigs. The following group threw the bodies into the pit. Once all the bodies had been brought from the cottage to the pit, Möll poured kerosene over them in the four corners of the pit and set fire to it by throwing in a burning rubber comb (roughly hinged piece of rubber). That is how the corpses were there. While Möll was starting the fire, we were in front of the cottage, (on the north-west side) and could see what he was doing.

After having removed all the bodies from the cottage, we were obliged to clean it thoroughly, washing the floor with water and scraping sawdust and whitewashing the walls. The interior of the cottage was divided into four parts by partition walls running across it (Document 1 (Drawing 2)), one of which could contain 1,000 naked people, the second 750 the third 400 and fourth 200 to 250.

[Making a total of 2,500 to 2,550 people which represents a density of 28 people per square metre over an area of 90m². This is physically impossible and S. Dragon's estimate of 2,500/2,550 is clearly wrong. I do not think that this witness was intentionally misleading, but he was following the tendency to exaggerate which seems to have been the general rule at the time of the liberation and which is what gave rise to the figure of 4 million victims for K.L. Auschwitz, a figure now considered to be pure propaganda. It should be divided by four to get close to reality.]

In the biggest room there were two little windows and just one in each of the three others [Document 2, Drawing 3]. These windows were closed by little wooden doors. Each room had a separate access. On the entrance door there was a metal sign with the inscription «Hochspannung - Lebensgefahr» as already mentioned above. When the door was opened, this sign was invisible but one could see another «Zum Baden to the bath» [Document 3, Fig. 1]. The people entering these rooms to be gassed saw on the exit door another sign with the inscription «Zur Desinfektion to disinfection». It is obvious that behind this door there was no disinfection. That was the door through which we removed the bodies. Each room had its own exit also [Document 3, Figures 3 and 4].

The room I have just described is faithfully reproduced in the drawing made by M. Hase, an engineer living in Oerbeck. This cottage was designated Bunker 2.

After the construction at Birkenau of Krematorium II, the huts situated next to Bunker 2 were also dismantled. The pits were filled with earth and the surface was smoothed. The Bunker itself was kept until the end. It remained unused for a long time and then was started up again for gassing the Hungarian Jews. They then built new huts and dug new pits.

Bunker 2 could contain over 2 000 people in all its rooms (see above comments on this point).

I would like to point out that the window fittings of Bunkers 1 and 2 and the doors of these Bunkers and of Krematorium IV and V were similar and made of the same wood.

S. Dragon went to live in Burel. He was a witness at the 25th session of the Dejaco-Erd trial in Vienna on 1st March 1972. When the hearing was resumed at 1 p.m., he stated that he had worked in a **Krematorium** which was a small building with a gas chamber and stated that «Dieses Gebäude war schon während der Bauphase weiß auf der outside». He was in first speaking of **Bunker 1**. S. Dragon's total confusion between Krematorium I and Bunker 2 caused the hearing to be suspended so that a Hebrew interpreter could be called. At the 26th session on 2nd March, he very honestly said «Ich kann mich heute nach 30 Jahren nicht mehr erinnern - I can't remember today after 30 years...». He had also forgotten the drawings (1 and 2) made in 1945 according to his indications. The intervening time had done its work, a blessing for the witness, a disaster for justice and for history. I have added this anecdote to show the irreplaceable value of early testimony. Afterwards, witnesses constantly go over the same story, altering it as the years go by.

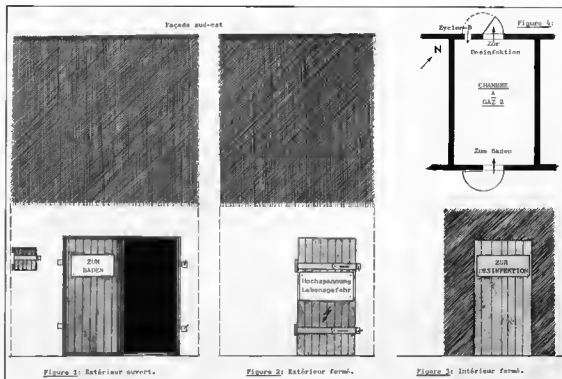


Figure 1: Extérieur ouvert.

Figure 2: Extérieur fermé.

Figure 3: Intérieur fermé.

Document 3

Drawings by the author to illustrate S. Dragon's testimony regarding the notices on the doors of the gas chambers of Bunker 2

Translation of inscriptions:

- Façade sud-est/South-east elevation

Figure 1: exterior open - «TO THE BATHS»

Figure 2: exterior closed - «High tension - Danger»

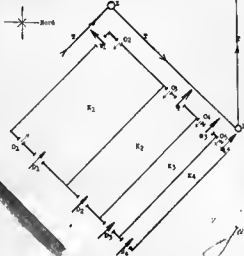
Figure 3: interior closed - «TO DISINFECTION»

Figure 4: Chambre à gaz /Gas chamber 2

/sakysolk do prebakužu prieskuchania 4-iaske Jalmy Dragons
a 10 i 11.3.1945 g./

Septate Nodules:



U = druzi wejélowe do domu gustoweh = porte d'entrée à la chambre à gas,
K = komorye = chambre à gas.
O = ataké do wstapienia wyklom = les arnes où l'on fait le xylo.
A = druzi wejélowe = komór gustoweh = portes d'extraction de la chambre à gas.
T = tak bajali do sokoł di spalecia szos = vide ferrée conduisant aux fenees
E = awariéne abrowe = aiguille relatif, pour la constatation des dépouilles

Play 6th 2

Documents 1 and 2:

001125

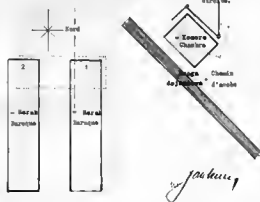
/arriver au protocole dépend par la témoin Salary Dragon les IO et II.5.
1045./

Wzrost
wzrost: 1 "rosły" w. 2.
/człowiek do protokołu sesji Światła Słonecznego z 20 i 22.5.
1945 r./



/osoba niniejszym przekazywany został przez
opiekunów Śledztwa Jean Sanna w obecności
Prokuratora Edmunda Potholakięgo na po-
stawie bezpośrednich nawiązań do niniejszej,
co wyrażała świadka Krystyna Gajowa,
świadkiem prawa ślęgo w toku sądownictwa
nawiązań i podlega jako przeciwnik./

Update February



Plan n° 1

Document 1

Translation of inscriptions:

- Fosse/[Cremation] pit
- Chemin de fer à voie étroite/
Narrow gauge railway
- Chambre/[Gas] chamber
- Chemin d'accès/Access road
- Baraque/Hut

Translation of inscriptions:

- Nord/North
- Porte d'entrée à la chambre à gaz/Entrance door to the gas chamber
- Chambre à gaz/Gas chamber
- Lucarne où l'on jetait le zylon/ Openings through which the Zylon was thrown
- Portes d'extraction de la chambre à gaz/Corpses extraction door of the gas chamber
- Voie ferrée conduisant aux fosses pour la combustion des dépouilles/Rails leading to the pits where the corpses were burnt
- Aiguillage rotatif/Wagon turntable

II/ Declaration by Pery BROAD concerning «the two farmhouses»:

«Not far from Barkau, which was rapidly expanding, there were two pretty and nice peasant cottages in a pleasant site. Surrounded by a fence. They were whitewashed and covered with rice thatched roofs. At night were that there. This was one's impression at first sight»

Nobody would have believed that the number of people incarcerated in these two offensive-looking houses corresponded to the population of a big town. However, a careful observer would have noticed first of all on the walls of these houses signs with an inscription in several languages - «to disinfect them». He would then have discovered that the houses had no windows, but on the other hand had an astonishing number of doors of an extraordinary thickness, sealed with rubber and fitted with latches that could be screwed tight. Near to these doors there were small wooden shutters.

He would also have noticed. Inside these houses, several big stable-type beds similar to those prisoners lived in at Barkau.

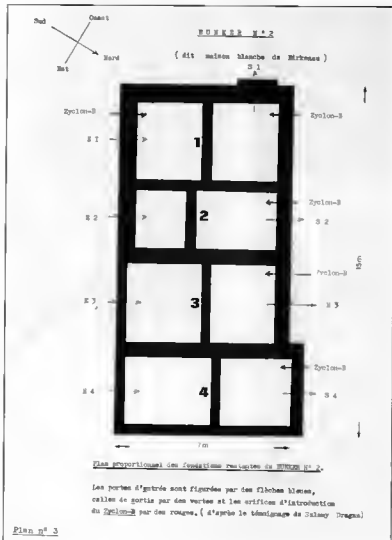
Comments:

There is perhaps a translation error with the word «cottage». Replacing this by «small wood» the declaration validates itself. In fact that Pery Broad can be speaking only of Bunker 2 (white cottage with an astonishing number of doors - see Document 5), though also he mentions the existence of Bunker 1 that he never seems to have seen. The doors sealed with rubber are entirely imaginary. They were sealed with felt. The inscription «to disinfect» in several languages would appear to show that Broad was in fact talking of the installation known as Bunker V in summer 1944. His declaration therefore concerns Bunker 2/V only.

III/ The testimony of Rudolf HOESS («Commandant of Auschwitz», page 211)

«During the spring of 1942 the actions were comparatively small, but the transports increased in the summer, and we were compelled to construct a further extermination building. The peasant farmstead west of the lake site of crematoria III and IV was selected and made ready. Two huts near Bunker 1 and those near Bunker 2 were erected in which the victims undressed. Bunker 2 was the larger and could hold about 1200 people»

(or about 13 people per square metre, a physically impossible density).



Extracts from «Der Auschwitz-Prozess» by Hermann Langbein, Volume 1

Page 72: Testimony of Dr. Johann Paul KREMER, reserve Second Lieutenant, who was at Auschwitz from 30/9/42 to 18/1/42

«Old farmhouses had been converted into bunkers and fitted with a sliding door that closed perfectly. Above there was an opening. Naked men were seen in there. They entered without suspecting anything, very few resisted and these were taken aside and shot. The gas was introduced by a member of the SS. To do this, he had to climb a ladder».

It is impossible to say whether Dr. Kremer is speaking of Bunker 1 or 2.

Page 73: Testimony of SS private HOBLINGG, replying to questions:

«I was detailed to the transport service and drove the Sankta, (abbreviation for Sanitätskraftwagen/medical truck) which was to carry the prisoners»

Then we drove to the gas chambers. The medical orderlies climbed a ladder, they had gas masks up there and emptied the cans. I was able to observe the prisoners while they were undressing. It always proceeded quietly and without them suspecting anything. It happened very quickly»

Pressing Judge - How long did the gassing take?

Höbbling - About one minute. When the gas permeated we could still hear cries of horror. One minute afterwards, everything was silent. The gas was brought in came by the SOG (Sanitätsdienstreife-SS NCO medical orderlies)»

It is again impossible to situate this scene specifically at Bunker 1 or 2.

Translation of inscriptions:

- Nord, Süd, Ost, West/North, South, East, West
- BUNKER 2 (dit maison blanche de Bienen/BUNKER 2 known as the Bienen - white house)
- Plan proportionnel des fondations restantes du Bunker No 2/Scale plan of the remaining foundations of Bunker 2
- Les portes d'entrée sont figurées par des flèches bleues, celles de sortie par des vertes et les orifices d'introduction du Zycklon-B par des rouges (d'après le témoignage de Szlamy) Dragon/ The entrance doors (E) are shown by blue arrows, the exit doors (S) by green and the Zycklon-B introduction orifices by red (based on the testimony of Szlamy) Dragon.

LE BUNKER 2

(ESSAI DE RECONSTITUTION DES FAÇADES SUD)

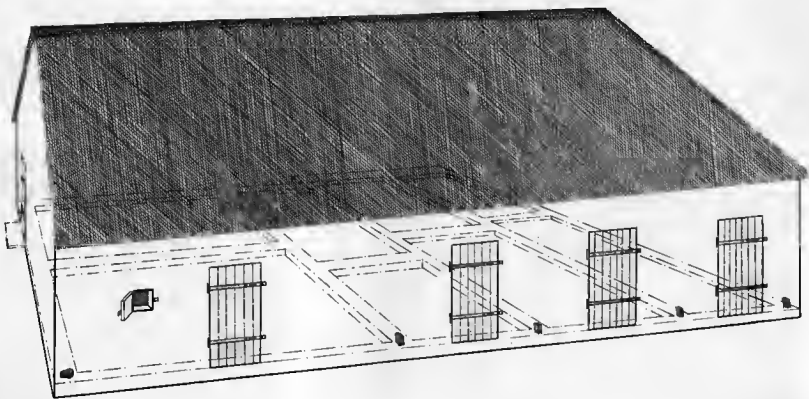


Figure 5

Document 5

[Drawing by the author]

A reconstitution of the south side of Bunker 2, based on the drawings by S. Dragon and the existing ruins. This would be how it looked from summer 1942 to mid-March 1943. The dashed lines indicate the foundations, as they appear on Drawing 3.

The ruins of Bunker 2

Document 6

The remains of the walls of Bunker 2/V on the left the southwest and on the right the southeast. The bricks standing on and mark the walls of the partition walls and the figures 1, 2, 3, 4 identify the gas chambers as on drawing 2.



Document 6: Les ruines des fondations, à gauche sud-ouest et à droite sud-est. Les briques debout sur et entre les murs des cloisons et les chiffres 1, 2, 3 et 4 indiquent les chambres à gaz comme sur le plan 2.



Document 7

The remains of Bunker 2/V seen from the eastern corner, with the southwest wall to the left and the northeast to the right. The main part were in the background behind the house. A few more from the southeast wall are two more, of which the one on the left in particular should be compared with the one in David Olver's sketch (Document 9).



Document 8:
The remains of Bunker 2/V seen from the south corner, looking along the southeast wall. Only the backs of the corner are visible, the rest being overgrown.

IV/ The testimony of Dr Miklos NYISZLI

Extract from Chapter Thirteen of *'Auschwitz: A doctor's eyewitness account'* by Dr Miklos Nyiszli, translated from the Hungarian by Tibor Kremer and Richard Seaver, Granada Books, London 1973, pages 69 to 72.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Early one morning I received a phone call ordering me to report immediately to the 'gyre' for the purpose of bringing back to number one crematorium (Krematorium I) all the medicines and eye-glasses that had been collected there. After being sorted and classified they would be shipped to various parts of Germany.

The pyre was located about five or six hundred yards from number four crematorium (Pyre V) directly behind the back forest of Birkenau in a clearing surrounded by trees. It lay outside the KZ's (concentration camp's) electric barbed wire fence, between the first and second line of guards. Since I was not requested to venture so far from the actual confines of the camp, I requested some sort of written permission from the office. They issued me a safe conduct good for three persons for planned on taking two men with me to help carry the material back to the crematorium.

We set off in the direction of the thick twisting spiral of smoke. At these unfortunate enough to be brought here saw the column of smoke which was visible from any point in the KZ, from the moment they first descended from the bar cars and lined up for selection. It was visible at every hour of the day and night. By day it covered the sky above Birkenau with a thick cloud; by night it lit the area with a hush glow.

Our path took us past the crematoriums. After showing SS guards our safe conduct, we gained through an opening out in the barbed wire and reached an open road. The surrounding countryside, a patchwork of bright green grass, seemed peaceful. But soon my watchful eyes discerned, about a hundred yards away, the guards of the second line, either lounging on the grass or sitting behind their machine guns and police dogs.

No crossed a clearing and came to a small pine forest. Once again we found our way blocked by a fence and gate strong with barbed wire. A large sign, similar to those on the crematorium gates was posted here.

«ENTRANCE IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE NO BUSINESS HERE. INCLUDING SS PERSONNEL NOT ASSIGNED TO THIS COMMAND»

In spite of the sign, we entered without the guards even asking for our pass. The reason was simple: the SS on duty here were from the crematorium, and the 50 Sonderkommando men who worked at the pyre were also

crematorium personnel from number two (Pyre II). At present the day shift was on. They worked from seven in the morning till seven in the evening, when they were replaced by the night watch, which also consisted of 50 men, taken from number four (Pyre V).

Passing through the gate we reached an open place which resembled a courtyard, in the middle of which stood a detached wooden house, small and simple of its style was that of a typical German country house, and its small windows were covered with panes. As a matter of fact, it had not been a country house for its 150 years, to judge by its hatched roof, which a century ago would have been black, and its floor replaced, facing walls.

The German State had expropriated the entire village of Birkenau near Auschwitz in order to establish the KZ there. All the houses, with the exception of the one, had been destroyed and the population evacuated.

What, in fact, did the house have most used for? Had it been meant to be a meeting? In that case ~~perhaps must have divided the interior into rooms~~. Or had it originally been used as a ~~large room~~, without partitions, meant to be used as a hangar or storeroom? I asked myself these questions, but was unable to supply the answers. In any case, it was ~~clearly an administrative room~~ for most on their way to the pyre. It was here that they deposited their slacks, coats, side glasses, and their shoes.

It was here that the «surplus» from the Jewish camp was sent, that is, those for whom there was no room in the four crematoriums. The worst state of death awaited them. Here there were no facilities to meet their thirst of several days' voyage: no latrines, no place to dry their belongings. ~~As gas chambers were not available, one a disinfecting room. Men in a common house, since painted yellow and covered with brush, whose windows had been replaced by planks~~

Behind the house enormous columns of smoke rose skyward, diffusing the odor of broiled flesh and burning hair. In the courtyard, a ~~small crowd of about 5,000 people~~, on all sides, high columns of SS, holding bearded police dogs. The ~~crowd was just three or four hundred at a time, into the waiting room~~. There, hurried by a rain of punishment blows, they spread out their clothes and left by the door at the opposite side of the house, ~~leaving their places in those who were to follow~~. Once out of the door, they had no time even to glance around them or to realize the horror of their situation. A Sonderkommando immediately seized their arms and placed them between the double row of SS who lined the waiting path, watch, flanked on either side by woods, ran for 50 yards (150 in the French) to the pyre, which lay now had been hidden by the trees.

The pyre was a ditch 50 yards long, six yards wide and three yards deep, a sear of burning bodies. SS soldiers, stationed to five yard intervals, along the pathway side of the ditch, awaited their victims. They were holding small caliber weapons - six millimeters - ~~died in the KZ for administering a bullet in the back of the neck~~. At the end of the pathway, two Sonderkommando men seized the victims by the arms and dragged them for 15 or 20 yards to the position before the SS. Their crest of terror covered the sound of the shots. A shot, then, immediately afterwards, even before he saw the victim, the victim was hurled into the flames. Fifty yards further on, a small circle in the air

reflected what was being enacted. Obersturmführer Moll (Moll) was in charge of these butchers. As a doctor and as an eye-witness I swear that he was the Third Reich's most abject, diabolic and hardened assassin. Even Doctor Mengele showed him time to time that he was human. During the selections of the unloading ramp, which he noticed a healthy young woman was seated above all to join her mother in the left-hand column, he ordered her to be ordered her to join the right-hand group. Even the ace shot of the number one crematorium (Pyre I), Obersturmführer Mostek, fired a second shot into anyone who the first shot had not killed outright. Obersturmführer Moll wanted no time over such trifles. Here, the majority of the men were thrown alive into the flames. Was it any Sonderkommando man by whose action the living chain, which extended from crematorium to pyre, was broken, with the result that ended the members of the firing squad was forced to wait a few seconds before receiving his new victim.

Moll was everywhere at once. He made his way tirelessly from one pyre to the next, to the crematorium and back again. Most of the detainees allowed themselves to be led without resistance. So paralysed were they with fright and terror that they no longer realised what was about to happen to them. The majority of the elderly and children reached in the way. They were ~~considered a goodly number of adolescents among those brought here, who inadvertently~~ them to buffet with a strength from of despair. If Moll happened to witness such a scene, he side his gun from his holster. At first, a bullet from Moll from a distance of 40 to 50 yards (20 or 30 in the French), the struggling person fell dead in the arms of the Sonderkommando who was dragging him beside the pyre. Moll was an ace shot. His bullets often pierced the arms of the Sonderkommando men from one side to the other when he was dissatisfied with side work. In back cases he inevitably aimed for the arms, without otherwise manifesting his dissatisfaction, but also without giving any previous warning.

~~When the last pyre was being emptied simultaneously, the order varied from day to day. Moll would shoot a day. Slightly better side the crematorium, but here death was a thousand times more terrible. For here one died twice, first by a bullet in the back of the neck, side by side~~

Comments on Dr Miklos Nyiszli's account

Doctor Nyiszli has adopted the «usual» numbering for the Krematoriums. It suffices to add one to obtain the «Bauern»-number. According to his account, Bunker V appeared to him like a thatched house. In 1944, the original white colour must have deteriorated for him to see it as yellow. It is also unlikely that the Poles appreciated his saying «a style was that of a typical German country house», Upper Silesia being for them above all Polish.

The figures given seem very plausible. Five thousand persons at the summer of 1944 represents very convey. Subtracting those directed to Krematorium II, III and V, there would remain less than 5 200-300 people. The throughput of the cremation ditches cannot be verified and hence cannot be taken into account.

Regarding this matter of figures, the account describes a particularly gruesome episode in the history of the extermination: that without Zyklon-B. Even though it may sound shocking, death by gassing was used as a relatively «human» method of mass execution. The SS were so aware of this «special treatment» without gas was in their eyes wrong. The anecdote taken from H. Langbeil's «Der Auschwitz Prozess», Volume I, page 85, is by the author himself, speaking as a witness:

«In 1944, during the process, about into the day that there were burning near the Krematorium (and Bunker V). We heard then in the main camp and told the garrison doctor, Doctor WISTHIS, released to believe me. He went to Birkenau to check. When I came to write to his decision the next day, he simply said: «It was an order of Camp Commandant Höss» - it was gone because there was no longer enough gas»

In connection with this lack of gas there is a letter preserved by the CDJC in Paris, ref. CDJLV-X (copy) of 10 February 1945 (reasonable date in view of the extermination delays), requesting the Italian Alpine Division «Monte Rosa» to take the disinfection samples from American prisoners for use in the fight against lice in Auschwitz, because Zyklon-B could no longer be used for normal disinfection purposes, the little available being earmarked for extermination purposes.



Document 9

Sketch by David Olère dating from 1944 and representing Bunker V at Metzger 1944, reconstructed and operating as a gas chamber.

This mental snapshot drawn by D. Olère is a view of the southwest corner of Bunker V. [The Drawing 11 have shown is not dated from the angle of view in this picture.]

Inexact details:

The hilly nature of the terrain. Reaching against the monotonous flatness of Borkenau, David Olère, in some of his drawings, has introduced a hilly landscape, clearly for artistic reasons only.

The orientation of the hut on the right. We should see the entrance not the side.

The house in the background on the right is probably a reminder of Bunker 1, which no longer existed in 1944.

Exact details:

The relative positions of the ditch, Bunker V and an undressing hut are well respected though they are shown somewhat too close together.

The positions of the door and the opening for introducing the gas in the west corner of Bunker V are also correct.

The hut is of the stable type.

Part of the north-west wall was indeed set back as shown by the ruins, but in the reverse direction.

There was still a tree in front of Bunker V in 1982, of identical shape, a striking coincidence as forty years later it is not the same tree.

This scene recorded a year after the events by D. Olère is of such remarkable precision as to be almost as good as a photograph.

State of the site at the liberation of the camp, as recorded by the Soviet Commission

The two drawings [Documents 10 and 11] presented come from the Moscow «October Revolution» Central State Archives. The references are not known. They were drawn at the beginning of March 1945 by a Pole for the Soviet investigation commission that started work immediately on the liberation of the Auschwitz camp.

The first drawing [Document 10] is an overall plan of the western part of K.G.L. Barkana, where there were six extermination points: Krematorium II, III, IV and V and Bunkers I and 2/V. While the location of five of them, of which ruins remain, is physically defined, this is not the case with Bunker I. The drawing locates it approximately seven hundred metres north-west of B.A.III. Present knowledge would now locate it rather in the proximity of the northwest corner of B.A.III and the location of its cremation pits would be in the wood which borders it to the west as shown on the drawing. Entirely dismantled by the SS, Bunker I can no longer be precisely situated.

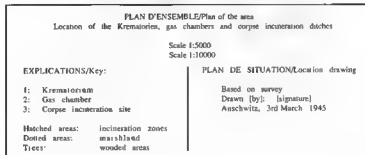
The second drawing [Document 11] shows in detail the area around Bunker 2/V. In four gas chambers are shown as running southwest/northeast, whereas in reality the remains of the foundations and the drawing attached to Szlady (Dragon's) deposition of 10th May 1945, indicate southeast/northwest. It seems that the draughtsman made an error of orientation. Today, of all this there only remain the original foundations of the house this was fitted with four primitive gas chambers and the cement outlines, built by the Auschwitz Museum to show the location of the two redempting pits. The drawing shows a cremation ditch of 30m² (7m long by 4.3m wide) as having been in activity. The survey, made a little more than a month after the liberation of the camp, faithfully records the state in which the premises were abandoned. Not having been destroyed, except for the house that had contained the gas chambers, the installation was almost certainly as it was in the summer of 1944, at the moment of the Hungarian extermination, when it was designated Bunker V.

This document makes it possible to appreciate the validity of Chapei Thirteen of «Auschwitz: a Doctor's eyewitness account» by Dr. Miklos Nyiszli. Nyiszli slightly overestimates the distance separating Bunker V from Krematorium V (his «number four»), five or six hundred metres instead of three or four hundred metres. He correctly describes the path for getting there, the clearing surrounded by the forest with, in the centre, the old farmhouse then used as an undressing room. An auxiliary means of extermination, Bunker V was according to Nyiszli, used only to eliminate: «The surplus from the Jewish camp... that is, those for whom there was no room in the four crematoriums», a surplus representing «a terrified crowd of about 5,000 souls», led in groups of three to four hundred at a time into the house to undress, the victims emerged naked and were propelled towards two pits «fifty yards long, six yards wide and three yards deep», killed by a shot in the back of the neck and thrown into one of the two pits. While these murders without gasping and the sequence of operations are confirmed by other witnesses, the fact remains that Nyiszli's figures are worrying.

Nyiszli considers that the «surplus of a convoy» was 5,000 people, while this number represents in fact the greater part of a single convoy (the average being 5,400). Part of this number would be declared fit for work and enter the camp, while those declared unfit were detained in the Krematorium II and III could «absorb» about 3,000 «unfit» per day; Krematorium V about 1,000; the rest or «surplus» were sent to Bunker 2/V. A «surplus» would more probably be 200 to 300 people. If the state of the site on 3rd March 1945 corresponded to that of summer 1944, which is more likely, the TWO ditches of 30m² described by Nyiszli, would be reduced to A SINGLE ONE of 30m². A pit of this size is more compatible with the incineration of 200 to 300 people than 5,000.



Translation of inscriptions. (top to bottom and left to right)



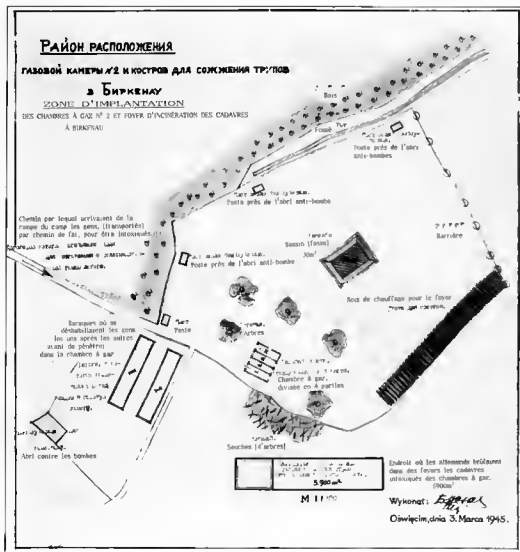
Район расположения

ГАЗОВОЙ КАМЕРЫ №2 И КОСТРОВ ДЛЯ СЖИЖЕНИЯ ТР/ПОВ

А БИРКЕНАУ

ZONE D'IMPLANTATION

DES CHAMBRES À GAZ N° 2 ET FOYER D'INCINÉRATION DES CADAVRES
À BIRKENAU



Documents 11.1

ZONE D'IMPLANTATION DES CHAMBRES A GAZ No 2 ET FOYER D'INCINERATION DES
CADAVERES A BIRKENAU/

Overall plan showing the location of gas chamber [Bunker] No. 2 and the associated corpse incineration sites at Birkenau

- Chemin par lequel l'avant de la rampe du camp les gens, [transportés] par chemin de fer, pour être interrogés/Path by which people arriving by train at the camp «ramp» arrived to be gassed
- Barriques ou se débattaient les gens les uns après les autres avant de pénétrer dans la chambre à gaz/Huts where people undressed one after the other before entering the gas chamber
- Abri contre les bombes/Air raid shelter
- Poste près de l'abri anti bombe/Post near the air raid shelter
- Bassin [Fosse]/Cremation pit (30m')
- Poste/Post
- Arbres/Trees
- Chambre à gaz divisée en 4 parties/Gas chamber divided into 4 parts
- Souches [d'arbres]/[Tree] trunks
- Feuilles/Branches
- Bois de chauffage pour le foyer/fuel wood for the cremation pit
- Endroit où les allemands brûlaient dans des feux les cadavres Interrogés des chambres à gaz/ Area where the Germans burnt the corpses from the gas chambers 3,900m'
- Executé [par]/Drawn [by]; [signature]
- Auschwitz, le 3 Mars 1945/Auschwitz, 3rd March 1945

Endroit où les allemands brûlaient dans des foyers les cadavres intoxiqués des chambres à gaz.

Wykonat: *Bogdan*
Oświęcim, dnia 3. Marca 1945.

THE UNDRESSING HUTS OF BUNKER 2/V

V/ Testimony of Filip MÜLLER

Extracts from «Tous ses dents une chambre à gaz d'Auschwitz» [Three years in an Auschwitz gas chamber] by Filip Müller, éditions Pygmalion/Gérard Watelet, Paris 1980.

Page 169:

«In Bunker 2, now renamed Bunker V - an old whitewashed farm separated from the camp by a little wood - there was also great activity. No one could imagine that in this country house, peaceful and ordinary, thousands of people would be exterminated by gas. Kommandos of prisoners of all trades, electricians, metal workers, road builders, succeeded in less than a year [this must be an error: a month would be more adequate] in getting the installation of death operational.»

Page 180:

«A few days later he had three more cremation pits dug behind Krematorium V. He thus had five pits as he disposed there now. Furthermore the old farm situated to the west of Krematorium IV and V which had already been used as an extermination site in 1942 was brought back into service under the designation Bunker V and four cremation pits were dug near the four rooms serving as gas chambers. The undressing rooms in which the victims left their clothes before being gassed were transferred to three wooden huts. There were no longer any numbered clothes hangers or other camouflage in the form of signs or any other attempt to mislead...»

I offer this account by F. Müller for what it is worth. Much too late, thirty six years after the event, it is at the limit of credulity. Filip Müller is an important witness, but in choosing to describe material and precise facts in a book and in 1979 (1st German edition) he has accumulated errors, thus making his account historically dubious. The best approach is to read it as a novel based on true history.

SS man Böck's testimony

Extract from «Der Auschwitz Prozess» [The Auschwitz Trial] by H. Langbein, Volume 1, page 74:

A comrade of Hößlinger, another member of the SS, accompanied him one day in the vehicle to the ... [Bunker]. [His name was Böck].

Deputy Judge Hermsdorf: «Were you present at a gassing operation one day?»

Böck: «Yes, it was one evening. I accompanied the driver Hößlinger. A transport had arrived from Holland and the prisoners had to jump from the wagons. They were well-off Jews. There were women with Persian furs. They arrived by express train. [They disembarked at the «Jewish ramp» at Auschwitz station, not directly at Birkenau. This account concerns 1942]. The trucks were already there, with wooden steps before them, and the people climbed aboard. Then they all started off. In the place where Birkenau once stood, there was only a [long low building] (Bunker 2), and beside it four or five big huts. Inside, the people were standing in clothes which were hanging up on the floor. The «Blockführer/black leader» and the «Unterscharführer/sargeant» carrying a cane were there. Hößlinger said to me: «Let's go over there now». There was a sign: «No distraction». He said: «You see, they're bringing children now». They opened the door, three children in and closed the road. There was a terrible cry. A member of the SS climbed on the roof. The people went on crying for about ten minutes. Then the prisoners opened the doors. Everything was in disorder and confusion. Heat was given off. The bodies were loaded on a rough wagon and taken to a ditch. The next batch were already undressing in the huts. After that I don't look at my wife for four weeks.»

Comments of Böck's testimony:

There is only one clue to show that the scene took place at Bunker 2: «a long farmhouse». In this type of account, this is already a good detail. SS Böck seems to have been a decent enough man. The gassing of children upset him so much that he saw the SS medical orderlies «climb on the roof» (they did not climb so high) and did not look at his wife for four weeks. Not everyone is cut out to be an executioner. Hermin Langbein writes:

«Böck is the only SS witness who demonstrated a sincere aversion before the court.»

I would just ask one question. «How many gasings did Böck see?» If he saw only the one he described before the court, it is not so surprising that his «aversion» should remain intact. If he had been forced by his duties to see them regularly, his attitude might have been different. It is all too easy to become hardened.



Document 13.

West-east view of the site of hut 1 on Drawing 1. Upper left, at a distance of 300 metres, the Zentrāl Sauna disinfection installation [ZS].



Document 12.

«Stable» type huts were erected in summer 1942 and remained till spring 1943, serving as undressing rooms for the people destined for the gas chambers of Bunker 2/V. After they were dismantled in 1943, the SS had new ones erected in summer 1944 for the same purpose. It would appear that the number of huts in 42-43 was different from 1944, but in any event there were either two or three. The photo shows two concrete outlines symbolising these huts built by the Auschwitz Museum and based on the delineations of S. Dragon. In the foreground, the access path (labeled «chemin d'accès») to the installations of Bunker 2/V for those coming from the Birkenau camp.



Document 14.

Looking south-east from the access path over the site of hut 1 on Drawing 1. On the left is hut 1 and in the background the Zentrāl Sauna [ZS].

KREMATORIEN II AND III

Plans, construction and general study

Complete history of Birkenau Krematorien II and III,

covering their design, construction, utilization and destruction

HISTORY OF KREMATORIEN II & III

Design - Construction - Utilization - Destruction

The sections «Design» and «Construction» will be dealt with chronologically, as in the «*Kalendarium der Ereignisse im Konzentrationslager*» [Calendar of events in the concentration camp] by Danuta Czech, certain items of which are incorporated in the present text. The documents on which the argument is based either accompany the text or appear in the annex of documents. Thus, everything set out here, frequently as the result of extensive study presented separately in annex, reflects our present state of knowledge concerning these buildings.

The «Utilization» section takes the form of a guided tour in the ruins of Krematorien II and III and refers the reader to the excellent testimony of Henryk Tauber [Part III, Chapter 3] for further details.

Krematorium II functioned as a homicidal gas chamber and incineration installation from 15th March 1943, before its officially coming into service on 31st March, to 27th November 1944, annihilating a total of approximately 400,000 people, most of them Jewish women, children and old men.

Krematorium III was used in similar fashion from 25th June 1943 to 27th November 1944, killing about 250,000 victims.

Thus approximately three-quarters of the Jewish victims of KL Auschwitz-Birkenau were gassed and reduced to ashes in these two buildings.

DESIGN AND IMPLANTATION IN THE POW CAMP

The main orders issued by Himmler as a result of his visit to Auschwitz KL (Concentration Camp) on 1st March 1941 were that the Stammlager [main camp] should be extended to receive 30,000 prisoners and that a camp should be built at Birkenau to hold an expected 100,000 Soviet prisoners of war.

The Camp Commandant, Rudolf Hoess, despite all his good will as an old Party Member, was technically incapable of undertaking and completing such a task, but nevertheless the extension of the Stammlager was begun in summer 1941, using bricks from the demolition of the Zasole district, situated immediately to the north of the KL.

In order to build the Birkenau POW Camp (Kriegsgefangenenlager or KGL), Amstgruppe C (Bauwesen/Construction) of the SS Wirtschaftsverwaltungshauptamt or SS WVHA [SS Economic and Administrative Main Office] in Berlin detached SS Captain Karl Bischoff as Sonderbauleiter [Special Head of Construction], later to become «Leiter der Zentral Bauleitung/Head of the Central Construction Management» of the Auschwitz region.

The first plan of the KGL was produced on 7th October 1941, drawn by Fritz Ertl, then an SS Corporal, and approved by Bischoff on the following day [Document 1]. The camp comprised three parts: a Quarantine Camp (the future B.I) containing a «Leichenhalle/Corpse hall» and two internment camps (Camps I and II, whose total area was a little greater than that of the future B.II). There was no plan for a rail link with the nearby Auschwitz station. A week later, on 14th October 1941, a second plan was produced [Document 2] on the same basis as the

earlier one, but this time including barracks for the SS guards to the east and a double track railway running from the station and ending between Camp I and the Quarantine Camp, still equipped with a «Leichenhalle» to serve as a morgue to store corpses before their transfer to the Stammlager for incineration in the crematorium there.

With an overall total of 130,000 persons expected for the Stammlager and KGL together, it was foreseeable that the two or three 2-muffle furnaces of the single existing crematorium (i.e. 1 muffle for 22,000 or 32,000 prisoners) would prove insufficient. At the end of October 1941, Bischoff had a conversation with Karl Prüfer, Chief Engineer of the «Krematoriumbau» department of the firm Topf & Sohne of Erfurt, concerning the construction of a new crematorium in the Stammlager (behind the existing one), the new building to have a furnace room with five 3-muffle furnaces, two «Leichenkeller» [basement morgues] and a dissecting room, all these rooms being ventilated (having air extraction systems). The components for the furnaces were to be delivered within three months [Document 3]. This would bring the number of muffles for the two camps up to 21, or roughly 1 muffle for 6,000 prisoners. This plan for a new normal crematorium implied the temporary storage of the KGL dead in morgues in Birkenau before cremation at the Stammlager.

The Drawing Office of the Bauleitung produced three plans for this project in November and December 1941, entitled «Neubau-Krematorium» and numbered 870 (elevation), 871 (ground floor plan) and 875 (furnace installation).

Beginning drawing 885 of 5th January 1942 [Document 4] showed a further extension to the KGL, now planned for a probable population of 110,000 to 120,000 prisoners. Camps I and II were extended, to reach their final dimensions, those of the second and third construction stages

(B.II and B.III). The Quarantine Camp still contained its «Leichenhalle» in the northwest corner. In addition, Camp I now contained in the west a «Verbrennungshalle/Cremation hall» with FIVE «Leichenhallen». Camp II was given similar installations. Though the incineration capacity of these «Verbrennungshallen» is not known, it must have been very limited in view of the disturbing number of storage morgues planned (ten), probably half-ings-ground structures as were later the Leichenkeller of Krematorien II and III.

The Quarantine Camp Leichenhalle (appearing on the drawings of 7th and 14th October 1941), was drawn in detail by the Bauleitung at the end of 1941 under drawing number 785, entitled «Leichenhalle KGL». A second drawing, no 812, «Leichenhalle für das KGL» is probably connected with this, unless it shows one of the ten corpse halls (appearing on drawing 885) from which another drawing, 1040, «Leichenhalle für KGL» was probably derived. The drawing of the two «Verbrennungshallen» was also produced in January 1942 under the number 879, «Vorschlag zur Errichtung eines prov. Krematorium KGL» [Proposal for the construction of a provisional POW Camp crematorium]. Unfortunately, however, although we know the numbers and titles of these drawings, it is impossible to make use of them in compiling the history of the camp, for none of them has yet been found.

The multiplication of «Leichenhalle» in this prison-of-war camp remains incomprehensible, for it contradicts the existence of the camp itself: either an infrastructure was to be created to house Soviet prisoners, or they were to be killed rapidly, in which case there was no need for a huge internment camp. The majority of the some 12,000 Soviet prisoners who were actually sent to Auschwitz died during the construction of the Birkenau Quarantine Camp (the future B.I), before

even acting on Camps I and II (the future B II) where the ten «Leichenkeller» were to be. The fact remains that the drawing of these ten corpse halls is inexecutable without additional documentary evidence, unless they are in some way connected with the creation of Bunker I, located in the immediate proximity, though this link is tenuous, as we shall see.

During January 1942, Bunker I, situated in the vicinity of the northwest corner of the future B II, was in fact created. It was an old brick farmhouse roughly converted into two homicidal gas chambers. Bunker I was not planned as an extermination installation (which it later became), but as a crude experimental station for studying the possibilities for the rapid extermination of numbers of people through making them inhale a toxic gas. The product selected, hydrocyanic acid fixed on a porous substance, was marketed under the trade name «Zyklon-B» as a disinfectant agent. It could therefore be obtained in the normal way from civilian firms manufacturing or distributing it without attracting the type of attention that would have been inevitable, for example, with orders for suffocating gas of the «Green Cross» type. The method adopted stemmed directly from the destruction of insect and animal vermin using the gaseous phase of the Zyklon-B in an enclosed space (for example when delousing clothing) or in buildings infested by vermin such as bugs, mosquitoes, lice, fleas, rats and mice. Because the lethal dose for humans was not known, the SS made a booby-trap gassing in the basement of Bunker I of the Stammlager on 4th and 5th September 1941, the victims being 850 Soviet POWs and other prisoners. It was subsequently seen to be more convenient to gas people as required in the very place where all corpses inevitably had to go eventually: the interior of Krematorium I. But trials to perfect the technique could not be carried out in this crematorium attached to the camp, hence the idea of establishing Bunker I in an isolated location on the edge of the Birkenau wood. It was very little used, if at all, for the extermination of prisoners found unfit for work after selection, up to 4th May 1942 [according to Danuta Czech's «Calendar of events»], and its use for the extermination of Jews without prior selection did not begin before 12th May 1942 [according to the «Calendar», but contrary to what is stated there, it seems to have been practised from January 1942].

The Baulasting Drawing Office, headed by SS Second Lieutenant Walter Dejaco, continued work on a new crematorium for the Stammlager and between 15th January and 2nd February 1942, the following drawings were completed, 935 (west elevation), 936 (north elevation), 937 (east elevation), 938 (south elevation), 933 (ground floor plan), 934 (furnaces and chimney sections), 932 (basement) and 980 (roof frame) [see these drawings in annex]. Dejaco had met his deadline, as less than three months had passed since Bischoff's order of 22nd October 1941.

According to a tracing of the KGL and its surroundings on a scale of 1:10,000 [Document II], the red link between the camp and Auschwitz station appeared as at 4th February 1942 to be planned with no extermination of the Jews in mind, for there was no crematorium planned in the vicinity. The future B II was half completed. The cleared sector to the north corresponded to the dimensions of the drawing of 14th October 1941, but a new extension zone to the north was outlined, considerably larger than that appearing on drawing 355. To the east, the extension of the Stammlager continued apace, with an expanding industrial zone.

On 12th February 1942, three 3-muffle furnaces were ordered from Topf & Sohne for the KGL [Document 6]. It is likely that each furnace was to be installed in a Verbernungshalle (which appeared on drawing 885), which for the planned 110,000 to 120,000 prisoners meant one muffle for 20,000 people. The Topf three-muffle furnace and beam design at the end of 1941 by Chief Engineer Karl Prüfer [Document 7]. What Prüfer had proposed to install in Birkenau was the firm's very latest product and the fruit of his own efforts. The throughput of this prototype furnace, which had not yet been tested, was expected to be 225 cremations per day, which made the theoretical total daily capacity of the two Verbernungshalle 450.

However, on 27th February 1942, as the result of a visit by the Head of Amtsgruppe C of the SS-WVHA in Berlin, Dr Ing Kammler, it was decided that the new crematorium with five 3-muffle furnaces planned for the Stammlager would in fact be installed in Birkenau KGL (which would then give 1 muffle for 7,500 prisoners) and the order of 12th February for two 3-muffle furnaces was cancelled, a decision that was bound to upset Messrs Topf, and above all Prüfer, who received a commission on the sale of his furnaces.

Topf naturally wanted to be compensated for the technical and commercial work already done for the order for the two 3-muffle furnaces, the cost of which they estimated at 1,769.36 Reichsmark. This sum was requested from the Auschwitz Baulasting in a letter of 11th March 1942 [Document 8]. After having consulted on 25th March 1942 with SS Major Wirtz (Head of Office C III Technical Task), one of the six sub-divisions of Amtsgruppe C, Bischoff diverted the two 3-muffle furnaces to another use. (This diversion is not known, but there would appear to be only two possibilities: either installation in the Stammlager to replace the new crematorium now transferred to Birkenau, or another installation at Birkenau, associated with the homicidal activity to come from Bunker I in May and then Bunker 2 at the end of June.) Bischoff subsequently requested Wirtz, in a letter of 30th March 1942 [Document 9] to inform Topf of this, in order to «clarify the situation». This was done on 8th April 1942, suggesting the expenses claimed by Topf, but the firm found the procedure somewhat high-handed and the dispute did not end there. In June 1943 Topf again approached the Baulasting to claim their money, and Bischoff, thinking the affair and been settled since 8th April 1942, immediately referred it to the Head of Office C III of the SS-WVHA in Berlin, since the original decision to cancel the two 3-muffle furnaces had come from him. The outcome of this dispute is not known (letters of 3rd June and 10th July 1943 [file BW 30/34, pages 34 and 20]).

The decision of 27th February 1942 to transfer the new crematorium meant that the drawings of the «930 series» had to be modified slightly to reflect the reconstruction of the building to suit the new site in Birkenau. The four elevations 933, 936, 937 and 938 were combined onto a single one, bearing the number 936. The overall nature of the land at Birkenau also meant that the planned cellars (Leichenkeller) had to be raised to a semi-basement configuration. This led to drawings 1173 (renewal of the earlier drawing 935, oriented to the south and completed by a sectional drawing of Leichenkeller I), 1174 (unpublished) and the addition to drawing 934 of sectional drawings of Leichenkeller I and 2 [see these drawings in annex]. As a result, the dates of 15th January attributed to drawings 936, 1173-1174, 23rd January for 932 (second version) and 27th for 934 are all incorrect.

because they were not modified because of lack of time or some other reason. These drawings must have been modified for the most part in April 1942, and perhaps some were completed early in May. In fact the drawing of the foundations, 1301, which necessarily and to take account of the nature of the soil, was produced on 8th May. The correction sheet to foundation drawing 932 was produced on 14th May, but date in the first modification of the 930 series, for drawing 1311 «rectifies» one that was already almost entirely redrawn.

Between April and June 1943 there is a historical «gap» in the Baulasting correspondence concerned with the Birkenau crematorium which makes it impossible to give precise answers to the following questions:

- When was the decision taken to modify the crematorium for cremal ends by installing a gas chamber in Leichenkeller I and an undressing room in Leichenkeller 2 (the only initial indication known being drawing 1300 of the drainage system of the building, dated 18th June 1942)?
- Why was the call for tenders for the construction of the future Krematorium II issued to civilian firms in July 1942, a very late date in view of progress with the «re-entment of the Jews» which meant that convoys were already arriving in Auschwitz?

On 5th June 1942, a civilian civil engineering firm, Hata & Kanowitz, working on the construction of B.I. in Birkenau, produced a 1/2000 drawing of the POW camp [Document 10] showing the location of the (narrow gauge) railways used to transport building materials. This drawing contains an apparent contradiction: to the west of B.I. there was a branch running towards the area occupied by the future Krematorium II, whereas to make this drawing Hata had used Baulasting drawing 885 (with the west of Camp I a Verbernungshalle and Leichenkeller) which did not have a crematorium. This apparent contradiction is explicable in view of the fact that Krematorium II appeared on a Baulasting drawing of the POW camp dated 6th June and Hata, in direct contact with the SS, could not fail to be informed of this.

A 1/2000 drawing of Birkenau POW camp showing the contours of the ground for construction stage II [Document 11] shows Baulasting construction stage I in the final phase of evolution, being reached in final form, the double-link railway, B.I. in its final form and B.III, identical to B.II, giving a total capacity of 140,000 prisoners. Construction stages II and III now and only TWO Leichenkeller each, without Verbernungshalle but with, in the western extension of B.I. ONE crematorium with five 3-muffle furnaces (the future Krematorium II) apparently for «normal» use (1 muffle for 9300 prisoners). This drawing, without an identification block, came from the Baulasting Drawing Office, where it was produced in early June 1942, a date that can be established by comparison with a similar drawing of the POW camp showing the three construction stages, the double-track railway, and a single crematorium (the future Krematorium II), signed by Bischoff and dated 6th June 1942 (PHO neg no 10265).

On 18th June 1942, prisoner 17133 drew a plan of the drainage

system for the new POW camp crematorium, Baulasting drawing 1300. This number puts the drawing at the beginning of May, whereas it was dated mid-June and checked on 9th July by Eggeling and Töffel and approved by Bischoff the following day. This drawing, of a technical nature, required two months of work because it was necessary to carry out studies and measurements on the ground in Birkenau and the intervention of two Baulasting specialists, constraints which perhaps explain the time taken, unless this was due to the modifications made to Leichenkeller I. This is the first drawing to contain a criminal element, for the drainage of Leichenkeller I (the future gas chamber) is now separated from that of the rest of the crematorium, whereas there had been just a single drainage system on the earlier basement drawing 932.

A second farmhouse, three hundred metres west of the future «Zentral Sauna», was crudely transformed into four small homicidal gas chambers, parallel to one another, which came into service on 30th June 1942 under the designation «Bunker 2a». The arrangement of the gas chambers was directly inspired by that of the Zyklon-B delousing chambers installed by civilian firms. 30th June 1942 marks a turning point in the history of Birkenau, for while there may have been some extermination of Jews before this, it was on an ad hoc and totally improvised basis, whereas henceforth it was to be carried out on an industrial basis. This was perhaps not always true in practice, but it was certainly the intention of the SS, who between early July and mid August 1942 launched a programme of FOUR crematoriums with 46 incineration muffles, without counting the 6 already existing in Krematorium I, for a present and existing total of 20,000 prisoners, or 1 muffle for 400 people. Of course, this calculation is in excess to the extent that it divides the existing number of prisoners, without adding those planned to come, by the number of existing and planned crematorium muffles, but it does perfectly illustrate the criminal nature of the multiplication of crematoriums. It suffices to imagine a village of 4,000 inhabitants with its church in the centre and beside it a crematorium equipped with three 3-muffle furnaces as they existed in Birkenau. The installation would have human feces for scarcely a week of operation. We need not dwell on this picture.

It may appear surprising that the «industrial» extermination of Jews at Auschwitz-Birkenau was planned and put into practice to take place between June and August 1942 and actually implemented between March and June 1943 by the entry into service of the four Krematoriums. For from the standpoint of criminal technique, the massacres of the Jews perpetrated in the late summer of 1942 were rudimentary and unorganized (the cars carried out by Einsatzgruppen A, B, C and D in the Soviet Union; the mobile gassing trucks in the Eastern territories, firstly the trucks at Kulmhof (Chelmno on the Ner) in December 1941), likely to be stopped at any moment under the pressure of internal or external events. It was not until the second quarter of 1942 that the «production line» stage was reached, inevitably and precisely outlined in the leading circles of the Reich and the extermination regions: Belzec (17th March 1942), Sobibor (17th May 1942), Treblinka (1st June or July 1942, depending on the source), Lublin-Majdanek (September 1942, a date that would probably be revised to considerably later if a serious study of its gas chambers were to be made). In this tight chronology, Auschwitz-Birkenau would be placed in late June/early July 1942.

Document 1
(PMO file BW 211, reg no 211/151)

LAGEPLAN DES KRIEGSGEFANGENENLAGERS-AUSCHWITZ/
Situation plan of Auschwitz POW Camp Upper Silesia

Seitenerbauleitung für die Errichtung eines Kriegsgefangenenlagers der
Waffen-SS in Auschwitz O/S
Special Construction Management for the erection of a Waffen-SS prisoner
of war camp in Auschwitz Upper Silesia

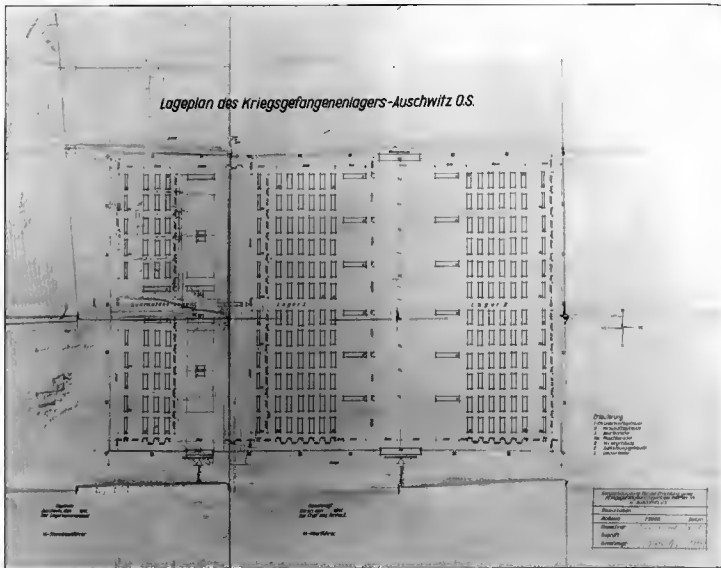
Maßstab/Scale 1:2000

Gezeichnet/Drawn 7/10/41 by SS Corporal Ertl
Genehmigt/Approved 8/10/41 by SS Captain Rauschhoff

Translation of descriptions:

Erläuterung/Key:
Unterkunftsgebäude/Accommodation building
Wirtschaftsgebäude/Administration building
Abortbaracke/WC block
Waschbaracke/Abtention block
Reviergebäude/Sick quarters
Entlausungsgebäude/Dehousing building
Leichenhalle/Corse hall

Lageplan des Kriegsgefangenenlagers-Auschwitz O.S.



Erklärung
1. Unterbringung
2. Wirtschaft
3. Abtention
4. Revier
5. Entlausung
6. Leichenhalle

Angaben zum Projekt	
Projektname	...
Architekt	...
Gezeichnet	...
Geprüft	...
Genehmigt	...

At the beginning of July 1942, the Bauleitung invited two building firms already working on the construction of the POW camp, Huta [Document 10] and Lenz & Co [Document 11], both of Katowice, to tender for the construction of the shell of ONE crematorium (the future Krematorium III) at Birkenau [Document 12].

On 13th July 1942, Huta submitted its tender at a price of 133,756.65 Reichsmark, a price which was to undergo several modifications (described in detail below). On 14th July, Lenz & Co refused to tender on the grounds of labour shortage.

On 17th and 18th July 1942, Reichsführer Himmler visited the Auschwitz-Birkenau complex for the second time. On the 17th he witnessed the complete process of a Sonderaktion/special action [Document 12H] (on a Jewish convey he saw the detaining, the gassing of the latter in Bunker 2 and the removal of their bodies which were then buried in mass graves). In recognition of his untiring activity in the development of the camp, SS Major Hoeser was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel. Hoeser was in fact, for only five days after Himmler's departure he had to decree by Kommandantbefehl 1942 of 23rd July, a state of "Angriffsverleumdung of the camp" because of an outbreak of typhus. Disinfection and delousing measures were stepped up.

On 20th July 1942, the Bauleitung awarded Huta a contract worth 133,756.65 RM for building the shell of the new crematorium at Birkenau [Document 13]. Two masonry-lage buildings were in fact constructed, but no known document mentions a second order or its date. Huta themselves were to prepare the site and erect the shell of the building: brickwork, facings, floors, concrete and reinforced concrete, for 116,366.85 RM while the damp-proofing work was subcontracted to Vedag at a price of 17,390 RM. The Huta price amounted to scarcely more than one fifth of the total price of a crematorium: Krematorium III cost 554,500 RM and Krematorium II probably 646,800 RM before inspection [BW 3043, page 29]. Other contracts were subsequently awarded: construction of two chimneys (Messrs Robert Koehler); supply of tea incineration furnaces, the ventilation systems and two corpse lifts (Messrs Topf & Sons, who received 110,000 RM per crematorium); design of the roof frame (Messrs Konrad Segner) before supply and erection of roof frames and eaveboards (Industrie-Bau AG, who received those of Krematorium III) at 9,418.04 RM; drainage work (Messrs Karl Fackel) (see list of enterprises in annex).

Huta subsequently recalculated its estimate (including the work to be subcontracted to Vedag) and arrived at a total of 140,795.65 RM, which was reduced by the Bauleitung to 115,832.90 RM (half of the saving being achieved under "shrinkage", where the SS provided their own prison labour). After some negotiation, on 7th May 1943 Huta claimed 120,443.16 RM for Krematorium II and an identical sum for Krematorium III. After a new agreement had been reached between the parties, the accounts were closed on 1st November 1943 at a sum of 119,007.23 RM for Krematorium II (or a 12% reduction on the original tender). Of the 120,443.16 RM claimed for Krematorium III, the Bauleitung accepted only 116,532.69 RM (or a 15% reduction on the agreed price), which was claimed by Huta on 1st November 1943,

MA 30/27

Anschrift
22. Okt. 1942

Befehl.-Nr. 715 9/41 B.

Betreff: Herstellung von Topf-Heizöfen, Heizungsanlagen und Kessel-Verordnungen.

Wegen: Angelegenheiten zwischen dem hies. Bauleiter K. Bischoff und Herrn Herrn Prüfer

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840. 841. 842. 843. 844. 845. 846. 847. 848. 849. 850. 851. 852. 853. 854. 855. 856. 857. 858. 859. 860. 861. 862. 863. 864. 865. 866. 867. 868. 869. 870. 871. 872. 873. 874. 875. 876. 877. 878. 879. 880. 881. 882. 883. 884. 885. 886. 887. 888. 889. 890. 891. 892. 893. 894. 895. 896. 897. 898. 899. 900. 901. 902. 903. 904. 905. 906. 907. 908. 909. 910. 911. 912. 913. 914. 915. 916. 917. 918. 919. 920. 921. 922. 923. 924. 925. 926. 927. 928. 929. 930. 931. 932. 933. 934. 935. 936. 937. 938. 939. 940. 941. 942. 943. 944. 945. 946. 947. 948. 949. 950. 951. 952. 953. 954. 955. 956. 957. 958. 959. 960. 961. 962. 963. 964. 965. 966. 967. 968. 969. 970. 971. 972. 973. 974. 975. 976. 977. 978. 979. 980. 981. 982. 983. 984. 985. 986. 987. 988. 989. 990. 991. 992. 993. 994. 995. 996. 997. 998. 999. 1000.

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then this sum was further reduced to 110,519.22 RM, with a difference of 6,013.47 RM (that was not acceptable to Hana [the figures cited come from file BW 30/26]). Final settlement with Hana for the work done on the two Krematorien dragged on to such an extent that on 29th January 1944 (BW 30/22A, page 1) the firm had still received only 100,000 RM for Krematorium II (the outstanding balance being 19,007.23 RM) and 90,000 RM for Krematorium III (balance 28,532.69 RM). As at that date, the Buletting owed Hana a total of almost 200,000 RM (equivalent to the price of Krematorium IV!) for the balance on the Krematorium and sundry other invoices. It was not easy to do business with the SS, even when supplying them with the means to do excellent business with the Jews.

In order to combat the typhus epidemic that was raging through the camp in August 1942, it was necessary to eliminate this vector of the disease, lice. The most effective delousing agent was Zyclon-B, and without this product it would be impossible to eradicate the disease. On the eve of the «Lagerjense» order, authorization was received by radio to send a 5-tonne truck (officially classified as 4.5 tonnes and capable of carrying a payload of 4950 kg on the road and 4100 kg off-road, and with a cubic capacity of approximately 20 m³) to Dessau, to the Zyclon-B production plant in order to collect «gas intended for gassing the camp against the epidemic that has broken out». On 29th July, authorization was received for another truck to go to Dessau to load «gas urgently required for disinfections». These two trucks would have brought back a maximum of 4,000 to 5,000 one kilogramme cans of Zyclon-B, if this was in line with choice. On 26th August, Zyclon-B was running out or lacking, and a Renault truck (probably a 3.5-tonne A11N) was sent to Dessau, this time for «material for special treatments». On 21st October, while the epidemic was still present, having reached a peak in September, the camp required «material for the resettlement of Jews». Finally, on 7th January 1943, to keep control of the now endemic typhus, another truck was sent to Dessau for «disinfection material». These five movements authorizations are the only ones in existence that mention this type of transport. They reflect the two different utilisations of Zyclon-B. But in what proportion?

As we know the quantity of Zyclon-B delivered, the dose necessary to kill one thousand people (according to Camp Commandant Hana) and the number of people gassed during this period (obtained from the «Calendar») it is easy to determine the percentage used for each purpose over the period 22nd July to 26th August: 210.3% for homicidal gassing and 97 to 98% for disinfection purposes. This extremely surprising distribution totally invalidates the interpretation and presentation of these «authorizations» by the traditional historians, who claim that the word «disinfection» was used to «camouflage» homicidal gassings and that a gigantic massacre was going on, an argument supported by the «shock» image of big trucks scurrying back and forth between Auschwitz and Dessau, bringing back 5 tonnes of Zyclon-B on each trip (a quantity of 5,000 kg is enough to kill 1,250,000 people, more than the total number of Jews sent to Auschwitz).

The truth is that the SS used the extermination of the Jews, about which their superiors had a general knowledge, without being informed of the practical details, to hide the terrible hygienic conditions in the camp, had to cover up their enormous consumption of gas for disinfection purposes. If knowledge of the devious state of affairs had reached Berlin, this would have had unfortunate consequences for Hoes, who had recently been congratulated by Himmler and promoted to rank, had for his courage. What did the Auschwitz SS care, in the month of August 1942, about the twenty or thirty thousand Jews killed in the seclusion of the Birkenwald forest at the cost of a hundred kilos of Zyclon-B, when their own lives were at risk and the very existence of the camp threatened? It was necessary at all costs to stop the epidemic, which led on the 29th August to the radical and extremely effective action of gassing all the sick or convalescing prisoners so as to get rid of both the lice AND THEIR CARRIERS [«Hefte von Auschwitz 3», «Kalender», p.35]. So the SS made the Jews take the blame (the usual practice) for the huge Zyclon-B requirements, in order not to be accused of incompetence in the running of the camp and lack of control over the conditions obtaining there. However, this strategy was to have very long term effects because of the duration of the epidemic and the discovery of the sad truth by the higher authorities in September. That the SS should have ordered two transport authorizations in such a way that after the war they should become crushing proof linking the Jews, their resettlement and special treatment with hydrocyanic gas, together meaning death for those unable to work, becomes something of a statistical miracle when we consider the proportions in which the gas was used: 2 to 3% homicidal as against 97 or 98% disinfection. The terms used in these authorizations, generally considered today to be incriminating slips, were deliberately used by the SS in what was a desperate period for them, when they were submerged by an epidemic and were trying to escape responsibility for this scourge for which they were in fact at least half responsible.

In the context of drastic disinfection measures, Hoes signed on 12th August 1942 a special order telling the SS to be careful about the gassings taking place (Document 14), because of indisposition caused by inhaling a very small amount of Zyclon-B. This text, which previously appeared to be damning proof of the existence of homicidal gas chambers can no longer be accepted as such. The distribution of FORTY TWO copies of this order, to all corners of the camp and to semi-civilian enterprises is proof that there was nothing whatsoever «secret» about it, and that on the contrary, the gassings concerned the whole camp at this date. If the accident had occurred at Bunker 1 or 2, hidden away in two small areas of the Birkenwald (Buck Wood), the order might possibly have been worded similarly, but it would have been sent only to the medical service and the SS medical orderlies who actually used the Zyclon-B. The recommendations made in the order justify some of the reservations expressed by R. Faurisson regarding the handling of Zyclon-B, though we cannot accept his presentation of hydrocyanic acid gas, devastating by definition, as being highly persistent.

Document 4

(PMO file BW 34, ref. no. 712354)

LAGEPLAN DES KRIEGSGEFANGENLAGE LAGER AUSCHWITZ OBER SCHLESSEN
Situation plan of Auschwitz POW Camp, 1942 (Slovak)

Standortbeschreibung für die Errichtung eines Kriegsgefangenenlagers der Weissen SS in Auschwitz O/S
Special Continuation Management for the creation of a Waffen-SS prisoner of war camp in Auschwitz, Upper Silesia

Malbuch/Skizze 1/2000

Gezeichnet/Drawn S/L42 by SS W. Ullrich

Geprüft/Checked S/L42 by SS S. Ullrich

Leitender (S) Walter Degen

Gemessen/Approved S/L42 by S/S

Captain Busch

Translation of inscriptions:

Ernährungs/Km
Unterkunftsgebäude/ Accommodation block
Wirtschaftsgebäude/ Administration building
Abortsanitäre/WC block
Waschbänke/ Ablution block
Erdbeheizungsbau/ Delousing building
Leichenhalle/ Corpses hall
Verbrennungshalle/ Crematorium hall
Revisionsgebäude/ Sunk quarant
Vorratshäuser/ Storerooms

Im Lager
Quarantäne Lager/ Quarantine Camp
Erdbeheizung/ Earth embankment
Lager KCamp II
Unterstände für Wachtruppe/
Accommodation for guards



Document 5
[PHO file WA 277, neg no 211355]

Tracing without the identification block, of KGL Dierksen Anschütz
version and part of the Stammlinger. Scale 1:10,000 dated 4/1/42, signature
unknown.



Document 5
[PHO file WA 277, neg no 211355]

Tracing without the identification block, of KGL Detachment Anschütz
entire and part of the Stammlinger Scale 1:10,000 dated 4/1/42, signature
unknown.

AMTSGRUPPE 8
ARCHIVUM

RW 30/25

5. März 1942

Btftg.-Nr. 5148 /42/Bz./Jh.

Betr.: Krematorium, Einkochungs-Öfen K.G.I. Auschwitz
Auftrag Nr. 42/261/1 vom 12.2.1942

Besg.: o/.

Anlg.: o/.

Firma

J.A. Topf & Söhne,

Erfurt

Dreyerstr. 7/9

Anlässlich der am 27.2.1942 stattgefundenen Besichtigung der hiesigen Zentralbauleitung durch den Gruppenschef der Amtsguppe 8 des H-Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamtes, H-Oberführer Dr. Ing. K a m m l e r, wurde angeordnet, dass die für das Krematorium in Kriegsgefangenenlager bestellten Einkochungsöfen nicht zur Ausführung gelangen, sondern die lt. Auftragschreiben vom 22. Oktober/41, Btftg.-Nr. 215/41/No, bestellten 5 Stk. Dreimuffelöfen im Kriegsgefangenenlager eingebaut werden.

Der von der Zentralbauleitung mündlich erteilte Auftrag wird daher zurückgezogen und gebeten, die Stornierung des Auftrages schriftlich nach hier zu bestätigen. *h*

[Handwritten signature]

Translation:

Correspondence register no. 5296 /42/ErfJh

5th March 1942

Subject: Crematorium, incineration furnaces for POW Camp Auschwitz [Birkenau]
Order no 42/261/1 of 12/2/42

Reference: -
Enclosure: -

Messrs
J A Topf & Söhne
Erfurt
Dreyerstraße 7/9

On the occasion of the visit, on 27/2/42, made to our Central Construction Management by the Head of Amtsguppe C of the SS Economic and Administrative Main Office, SS Oberführer [senior Colonel] Dr Ing Kammler, it was decided that the incineration furnaces ordered for the prisoner of war camp will not be proceeded with, but that the 5 three-muffle furnaces ordered by the letter of 22nd October 1941, correspondence register no 215/41/No will be installed in the prisoner of war camp

The verbal order issued by the Central Construction Management is therefore withdrawn and we would therefore ask you to confirm cancellation of the order.
[Erf's initials]

[Buschoff's initials]



Document 7:

Identity photograph of Kurt Prüfer, born 21st April 1891, Chief Engineer/Chief Engineer of Section D IV, «Krematoriumsbau/ Crematorium construction» of Messrs Topf & Söhne of Erfurt. He started work in this firm on 1st June 1915 in a monthly salary of 90 RM.

[K Prüfer personal file held in the Westair Staatsarchiv (GDR) Bestand 2/535]

Bw 30 *Am...*

35

Abschluß

8. April 1942

Ant. C III/3a-4-W/1.

Befehl Auschwitz - Kinoschermaschinen für KZ.

Befehl Der Schreiben vom 11.3.42

Befehl --

1) Zum

A. A. 3 a p f 303a

2) 2 a t

Die für das KZ. Auschwitz ursprünglich geplante 2 Stück
Dreimuffel-Öfen-Kinoschermaschinen werden auf ein anderes
Bauvorhaben umgeschlagen.

Alle technischen und kaufmännischen Vorarbeiten sowie alle
Rechnungen werden auf ein neues Bauvorhaben übertragen, so
daß die entstehenden Vertriebs- und Verwaltungskosten in
Höhe von RM 1.769,36 wegfallen.

Weitere Angaben über das neue Bauvorhaben werden auch mitge-
teilt.

Der Chef des Amtes
Technische Fachgebiete

ges. Unterschrift
SS-Sturmabführer

2) Zentralverwaltung d. W.-SS u. Pol. Auschwitz

3) Inspektion d. W.-SS u. Pol. Posen

4) W. am

5) a. d. A. C III/3a-4-

f. d. R. d. A.

[Signature]

SS-Sturmabführer (1)

Document 2:
[PMAD file BW 30.34, page 25]

Translation:

BW 30 Krema II

8th April 1942

Copy/Go

Office C III/3a-4-W/1el

Subject: Auschwitz - Incineration furnace for POW Camp

Reference: Your letter of 11/3/42

Enclosure:

Messe
J A Topf & Söhne
Erfurt

The 2 big three-muffle incineration furnaces originally planned for Auschwitz POW Camp [Birkenau] have been allocated to another construction project.

All the preliminary technical and commercial work and all the drawings are transferred to a new construction project, so that the operating costs and overheads to a total of 1,769.36 RM no longer apply.

Further details of the new construction project will be furnished in due course

Head of
Technical Tasks Office

Signature
SS Major

2) Waffen SS and Police Central Construction Management Auschwitz

3) Waffen SS and Police Construction Inspectorate Posen

4) Wv on --

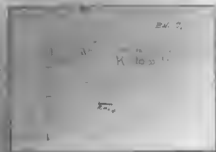
5) For file C III/3a-4-

For Archives
[signed] Kirschneck
SS Second Lieutenant (S1) [Specialist]

Document 16
 (PMO file PW 29 reg no 211258)

Drawing by Hans [Hans] and [Hans] [Hans] of Katsowitz of the
 Quarantine Camp and Camp [of the Birkenau POW camp, scale 1:2000,
 dated 1942]

[The identification block has been enlarged and placed in the top right hand corner
 where there is nothing on the drawing]



Document 106

[PMO Dr-BW 214, seq no 2115/1]

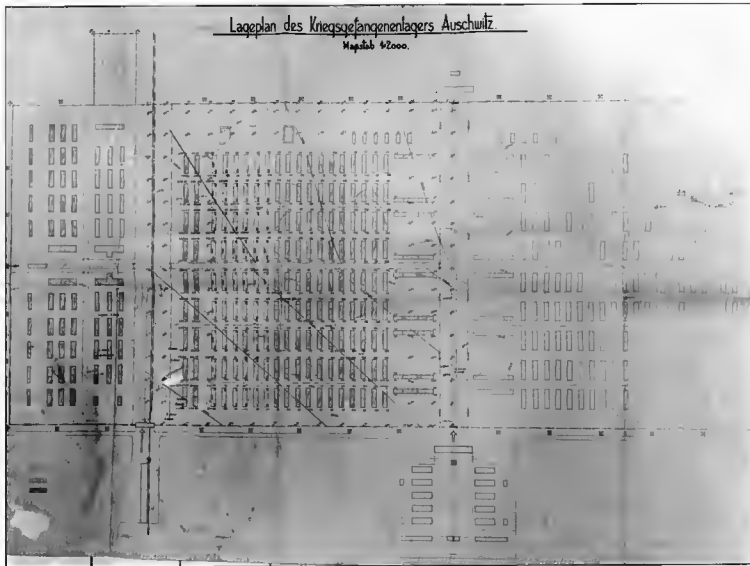
Reichsbefehl drawing with no identification block.

Lageplan des Kriegsgefangenenlagers/Situation plan of POW camp

Maßstab/Scale 1:200 (iberschd bei 2000)

Situationsplan des Gefangenen lagers in Auschwitz II (GELAG) nach dem Zustand in der Bauphase II des POW lagers

Probably drawn no 6/4/42



Document 11
 (PMAO file BW 2/16, seq no 21135/11)

Drawing for estimation prepared by Lenz & Co (Schweizer Industrietechnik Lenz & Co AG) of Kallertwald showing an accommodation block of the brick-hall type erected in construction stage 1 of Buchenwald. The drawing is not dated, but was received by the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation on 7th January 1945.

Translation of inscription:

- Abrechnungsskizzen betr.
 Wohnbarackenbau im KGL Auschwitz/
 Estimation drawing of accommodation
 block in Auschwitz POW camp
 [in fact Buchenwald]
- (Details siehe Massenskizzenbuch/
 (For details see quantity estimate)
- Schnitt/Section
- Grundriss/Plan view
- Fundamentplan/Plan of foundations
- Querschnitt/Cross-section

Industrietechnik Lenz & Co.
 Industrietechnik

Handwritten signature

Technische Zeichnung des Wohn- und Barackenbaus im KGL	
Bogen 7.1.45	
Gezeichnet	Geprüft
Verarbeitet	Freigegeben

13. Oktober 1942

45

Kriegs-Fr. 41055 /42/Ja/Mh

Ziel: Vergütung der Bauarbeiten für den Neubau des
Kriegsgefängnisanlagen der Waffen-SS in Auschwitz O/S.

Bekannt: ohne

Anzahl: 44

An den

Wirtschafts-Verwaltungs-Hauptamt,
der Chef des Amtes C V,

Berlin-Lichterfelde-West

Unter den Eichen 126 - 135

In der Anlage werden nachfolgende Kosten-Vorschläge mit der
Bitte um Genehmigung des Vertragsschließenden in Vorlage ge-
bracht:

- 1.) Kostenveranschlag von 27.1.42 zum Anbot
der Firma Huta, Hoch- u. Tiefbau-Unter-
nehmen, Fattowitz, Friedrichstr. 19
mit 9 Anlagen, abschließend mit
- 2.) Kostenveranschlag zum Anbot der Firma
Schlösser, Industriehaus & Co., A.-G.,
Kattowitz, Grundmannstr. 23
u. v.

RM 227 321.59

Kostenveranschlag Nr. 1 vom 31.12.41
abschließend mit

• 145 543.70

samt Nachtrag vom 7.7.42 mit

• 406.40

Kostenveranschlag Nr. 2 vom 7.7.42
abschließend mit

• 8) 854.90

- 3.) Kostenveranschlag vom 13.7.42 für den
Neubau des Krematoriums von Anbot der
Firma Huta, Hoch- und Tiefbau-Unter-
nehmen, Fattowitz, Friedrichstr. 19, abschließend mit

• 133 794.00

Document 121

1-October Revision: Central State Archives in Moscow accession no. 295 collection no. 7021 description no. 158 and deposit no. 52 pages 45, 46 and 47)

Translation of page 45:

13th October 1942

Correspondence register no. 16093 /42/Ja/Mh

Subject: Award of contracts for construction work in the Waffen SS
prisoner of war camp at Auschwitz, Upper Silesia

Reference: None

Enclosures: 14

SS Economic and Administrative Head Office

Head of Office CMI

Berlin-Lichterfelde-West

Unter den Eichen 126-135

Enclosed please find the following estimates, with request for authorization to conclude contracts

- 1) Estimate of 27/1/42, tender of Huta, Civil Engineers,
Katowitz, Friedrichstraße 19, with 9 annexes, for a
total of

RM 227 321.59

- 2) Estimate of Messrs Lenz & Co. Industrial Builders,
Katowitz, Grundmannstraße 23, i.e.
Estimate no 1 of 31/12/41 amounting to
with a supplement of 7/7/42 of
Estimate no 2 of 7/7/42 amounting to

RM 145 543.70

RM 406.40

RM 53 854.98

- 3) Estimate of 13/7/42 for the construction of the new
crematorium according to the tender by Huta,
Civil Engineers, Katowitz, Friedrichstraße 19
amounting to

RM 133 796.65

PTO

Die vorgenannten Arbeiten sind wegen der unüberwindlichen
Hinglichkeit derselben den Firmen, vorbehaltlich der Appro-
bation durch die vorgenannte Dienststelle, bereits vergeben
worden. Die Verträge werden nach Genehmigung abgeschlossen.

Zu 1a) und 2.)

Mit dem Bauarbeiten für den K.G.L. musste eine Sonderauftrag im
Oktober 1941 sofort begonnen werden. Der Bauauftrag wurde mit
Zl. II B-6-4/1/30/Lo vom 1.11.41 erteilt.

Wegen der Dringlichkeit der Arbeiten konnte zuerst eine An-
schreibung nicht durchgeführt werden, vielmehr waren die Firmen
Huta, Hocht- und Tiefbau-A.-G., und Schless. Industrieteile Lenz
& Co., A.-G., beide Katowitz, die einzigen, welche für einen
sofortigen Einsatz aufzubereiten waren und gleichzeitig über den
notwendigen umfangreichen Maschinenpark, wie Feldbühnen, Bagger, Be-
schneidemaschinen, sowie über die notwendigen Geräte verfügten.

Zu Firm Huta wurden die Arbeiten am 4. und 6.10.41, der Fir-
ma Lenz am 8.10.41 mündlich mit der Auflage übertragen, sofort mit
den Bauarbeiten zu beginnen. Beide Firmen erklärten bei Arbeits-
beginn, ein bindendes Angebot nicht erstellen zu können, da sie
mit dem Lagerverhältnissen, insbesondere mit der Leistungsfähig-
keit der Häftlinge nicht vertraut waren.

Die schriftlich eingereichten Angebote wurden geprüft; die
Preise entsprachen den örtlichen.

Zu 3.)

Mit dem Ausbau des Krematoriums musste noch im Juli 1942 wegen
der durch die Sonderstrafkammer geschaffenen Lage sofort begonnen wer-
den. Zur beschränkten Anschreibung wurden die Firmen Huta,
Hocht- und Tiefbau-A.-G., Katowitz, Friedrichstr. 19 und Schless.

Translation of page 46:

- 2 -

Because of the extreme urgency, the above mentioned work has already been allocated to the firms, subject
to approval by the competent service. The contracts will be concluded on receipt of this authorization.

Regarding 1) and 2)

As regards the POW camp construction work, it was necessary to start at once in October 1941 on special
contract. The construction order was given by Z.II B-6-4/3/30/Lo of 1/11/41.

In view of the urgency of the work, the normal call for tenders procedure was not followed, because at any
case Huta, Civil Engineers, and Lenz & Co, Industrial Builders, both of Katowitz, were the only firms we
were able to find who would be able start immediately, and who at the same time had available the vast
armour of equipment necessary, such as portable tracks, excavators, cement mixers and other machinery.

The orders for the work were given verbally, to Huta on 4th and 6/10/41 and to Lenz on 8/10/41, with the
instruction to commence construction work immediately. Both firms declared that they could not make a
firm estimate at the beginning of the job because they did not know the conditions of work within the camp,
and in particular the capacities of the prisoners to be employed.

The estimates subsequently submitted have been checked and found to be in accordance with local usage.

Regarding 3)

As regards the construction of the new crematorium building, it was necessary to start immediately in July
1942 because of the situation caused by the special sections. The firms Huta, Civil Engineers, Katowitz,
Friedrichstraße 19, and Lenz & Co, Industrial Builders, Katowitz, Grundmannstraße 23, were

PTO

44
47.

- 3 -

Industriellen Lenz & Co., A.-G., Yartovits, Grundmannstr. 23, welsche schon im K.O.L. arbeiteten, eingeladen.

Die Fabrik. Industriellen Lenz & Co. hat 14. Zuschrift vom 13.7.42 wegen Arbeitermangel kein Anbot abgegeben. Aus diesem Grunde wurde die Firma Lenz beauftragt, sofort mit den Arbeiten gemäss ihrem Anbot vom 13.7.42 zu beginnen.

Die Zentralverwaltung bittet nach Genehmigung um Einsendung der beigeschlossenen Original- oder Voranschläge eines Vertragsab-schlusses.

Der Leiter der Zentralverwaltung
der öffentlichen und Polizei Angelegenheiten

W. Bischoff
- angestellter -

Beauftragter

Inspektion der öffentlichen,
Reichs-Verwaltung,

2. 7. 42.

Translation of page 47:

- 3 -

invited to tender, as they were already working in the POW camp.

According to their letter of 13/7/42, Messrs Lenz & Co declined to tender because of a shortage of labour. For this reason Hata was asked to commence work immediately on the basis of their tender of 13/7/42.

The Central Construction Management requests your approval and the return of the enclosed original estimates with a view to concluding the contract.

Head of the Waffen SS and Police
Construction Management Auschwitz

[signed] Bischoff
SS Captain

Copy to:
Waffen SS Construction Inspectorate
for the Eastern Reich
Posen

[This document comes from a file probably containing about one hundred originals and copies in German and Russian and various letters taken from KL Auschwitz-Birkenau by the Soviets in January/February 1945. The letters were subsequently bound together. Microfilm M 26 kept in the Archives of the High Commission for the Examination of Hitler's Crimes in Poland, in Warsaw, shows part of these. FMO file BW 30/27 of 41 pages (microfilm I 50) contains photographs of these documents, including several letters identical to those on microfilm M 26. The entire Soviet file is not known to us at present, but in the author's opinion all the essential documents have been communicated, for it is always the same ones that are photographed and produced.]

On 15th August 1942, a situation plan of the whole POW camp was completed [Document 12], projecting its extension to four construction stages, numbered (from south to north) IV, I, II, III, with a capacity of 60,000, 20,000, 60,000 and 60,000 respectively, or a total of 200,000 prisoners. A letter of 27th August 1942, signed by Buschhoff and addressed to the SS Construction Inspectorate at Posen for the Head of Office C/V of the SS-WVHA in Berlin, confirmed that the «logistics» capacity of the POW camp was to be increased to 200,000 prisoners [Soviet «October Revolution» Archives, microfilm 295, reel 7021-108-32, page 41]. A double-track railway was laid down between B I and B II, as well as the construction of TWO crematoriums (labelled I and 2, the future Krematorien II and III), which gives I muffle for 7,000 prisoners, a proportion considered «normal». However, the two crematoriums, though certainly still designed without homicidal gas chambers, are formally connected with the SPECIAL ACTIONS [Document 12a] carried out in Bunkers I and 2, i.e. they were to be used essentially to incinerate the corpses from these two installations, which were hitherto buried in mass graves.

The date of 15th August 1942 is to be considered as the end of the gestation period for the FOUR KREMATORIEN of the POW camp and the beginning of their construction. In fact the contracts for the building work on Krematorien II and III were awarded on 26th July. The first drawing for the future Krematorium IV [PMA file BW 306-30/22, drawing 1678] was produced on 14th August. The contract for the construction of the four chimneys for the TWO OTHER KREMATORIEN (IV and V), of a different model from II and III, was awarded to Meisen Robert Kochler on 20th August 1942 [file BW 30/26, pages 52 and 53]. Thus the incineration capacity of the camp was to be increased to 52 muffles, while on 19th August 1942 as the evening roll call there were 22,925 prisoners in the camp.

AS AT MID-AUGUST 1942, the criminality of the Krematorien, normally by definition installations planned for health reasons, is evident from the fact that THEIR CAPACITY WAS EXCESSIVE IN RELATION TO THE REAL NEEDS OF THE CAMP, without there being any need to demonstrate the presence of homicidal gas chambers inside them, which is in fact difficult to establish at that date. Although a criminal trace has been detected on drawing 1300 of Krematorium II, it is unique and thus open to dispute, as it can be differently interpreted in relation to other factors. By contrast, drawing 1678 of Krematorium IV (and V) makes it possible to prove that the building was directly planned for criminal purposes. These are the only early traces. The real traces of the installation of homicidal gas chambers in the four Krematorien first appear in mid-January 1943 and go on appearing until the end of June 1943.

Zentral-Bauleitung
der Waffen-SS u. Polizei
Aufsicht 0/5.

Ort: Anschnitz am 29. Juli 1942.

Gesamt: Mydlowitz 22259

Bei Rückantwort Angabe des Aktenzeichens notwendig

Re: SS-WVHA 24 24 148/23

"Bata" Hoch-u. Tiefbau-A.G.
(GmbH)

Kattowitz, Friedrichstraße 19.
(Werkstatt)

Ufufchlag

Betr.: Geplante Ausführung Nr. 36
Brd., Maurer-, Putz-, Estrich-,
von Isolierungen, Beton-
(für die Muffen)

Pl. Nr. 30 K.G.L. Neubau des Krematoriums
(Gesamtk., Bedarf)

Sei Eingel. vom 13.7.1942 11.7.56, 65

den Ufufchlag. Damit ist der Sondertrag geländebegonnen.

Sie werden aufgefordert, daß zur arbeitsfähigen Befolgung des Sondertrages innerhalb 8 Tagen
in doppelter Ausfertigung
Der Empfang dieses Schreibens ist umgehend schriftlich der Bauleitung zu bestätigen.

Der Leiter der Zentralbauleitung
der Waffen-SS u. Polizei
H. Langemann (B)

Wagen

ANSCNITZ 24 30/26

"Verfahren - Bau - 2. Ufufchlag", Bauwesen-Bauverfahren (1942)

Document 13
[PMA file BW 30/26, page 31]

Acceptance of tender form, dated 29th July 1942, was sent by the Auschnitz Waffen-SS and Police Central Construction Management to Bata a structural and civil engineering firm, concerning the main preparation: bricklaying, laying flooring insulation and concrete work for the new crematorium building BW (workshop) 30 at Bata, in accordance with the estimate of 13th July 1942 amounting to 133,756.65 RM. The acceptance was signed by the Head of the Building, Karl Buschhoff, and was received by Bata on 5th August 1942. Two buildings were in fact constructed, the second being the future Krematorium III, workshop 30a. No acceptance of tender has been found for it.

Sonderbefehl.

Col

Ein heute mit leichten Vergiftungserscheinungen durch Blausäure aufgetretener Krankheitsfall gibt Veranlassung, allen an Vergasungen Beteiligten und allen übrigen H- Angehörigen bekanntzugeben, daß insbesondere beim Öffnen der vergasteten Räume von H- Angehörigen ohne Maske wenigstens 5 Stunden hindurch ein Abstand von 15 Metern von der Kammer gewahrt werden muß. Hierbei ist besonders auf die Hinderichtung zu achten.

Das jetzt verwendete Gas enthält weniger beigesetzte Gaseinstoffe und ist daher besonders gefährlich. Der H- Standortarzt Auschwitz lehnt die Verantwortung für eintretende Unglücksfälle in den Zellen ab, bei denen von H- Angehörigen diese Richtlinien nicht eingehalten werden.

Ges.: H S B

H- Obersturmbannführer und Kommandant.

F.d.R.:

[Signature]

H- Hauptsturmbannführer und Adjutant.

Verteiler:

- 7 Stück an H-1-Stube.
- 7 " " Verwaltung
- 1 " " Ablage
- 2 " " Hausleitung
- 2 " " Politt. Abt.
- 1 " " H-1-H-2-Stube.
- 1 " " Landwirtschaft
- 1 " " Reitstall
- 1 " " Schutzhaftlager
- 1 " " FKL
- 1 " " Gerichtsschreiber
- 1 " " Personalabteilung
- 1 " " Haus der Haffen-9

Je 1 Stück an:
H-Revier, H.M., D.A.M., Funkst.
Fernschreibstelle
Telefonvermittlung
H-Kontingenzgesellschaft
Fahrbereitschaft
Arbeitsinsätze KL
Arbeitsinsätze FKL
Abteilung VI
Ausdienststelle des
Leibes H.I.
Sonderkommando Zepplin.

Translation:

Auschwitz Concentration Camp
Kommandantur

Auschwitz, 12th August 1942

Special Order

A case of indisposition with slight symptoms of poisoning by hydrocyanic gas which occurred today makes it necessary to warn all those participating in the gasings and all other SS members that in particular on opening rooms used for gassing SS not wearing masks must wait at least five hours and keep at a distance of at least 15 metres from the chamber. In addition, particular attention should be paid to the wind direction.

The gas being used at present contains less odorous warning agent and is therefore especially dangerous.

The SS garrison doctor declines all responsibility for any accidents that should occur in the case where these directives have not been complied with by SS members.

Signed: H S B

SS Lieutenant-Colonel and Commandant

For files
(undated signature)
SS Captain and Adjutant
Distribution:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 7 to SS-T-Stub | 1 each to: |
| 7 Administration | SS Hosp., HWL, DAW, Radio station |
| 3 Store | Telegraph station |
| 2 Construction Management | Telephone exchange |
| 2 Political Section | SS Canteen |
| 1 9th SS-T-Stub | Transport Section |
| 1 Agriculture | KL Labour Office |
| 1 Stables | Women's KL Labour Office |
| 1 Protective Detention Camp | Detachment VI |
| 1 Women's KL (concentration camp) | External Service Station of the WI |
| 1 Legal Officer | Office |
| 1 Personnel Division | Zepplin Special Kommando |
| 1 Waffen SS House | |

THE BUILDING OF KREMATORIEN II AND III

On 8th August 1943, Huta, not being equipped to damp-proof the basements of Krematorien II and III, called in a specialist firm, VEDAG of Breslau (the correspondence subsequently exchanged between Huta, Vedag and the Auschwitz-Bauleitung turned into a dialogue the text of which would be funny but for the nature of the subject).

At this date, work on BW (worksite 30 (Krematorium II) had been under way for a week, according to Bischoff [letter of 13/10/42], though in fact, no SS or civilian document mentions the exact date on which work commenced. All the existing «Tagebucheinträge» (diary entries) for the firms who must have been the first to work on this site - Huta, Topf & Sons and Karl Fackel - start considerably later (24-25 August for Huta, according to estimation based on two isolated time-sheets and a letter of 30/9/42 from the Bauleitung to Huta; 7th September for Topf, according to recapitulatory reports by their fitters Maria Holick and Willi Koch, 9th October for Topf). Yet BW 30 was visited on 20th August by senior SS and civilian officials. This preparation must have begun by mid-August, while work got under full swing towards the end of the month.

Vedag replied favourably on 12th August to Huta's request to them to carry out the damp-proofing work for the basements.

On 14th August 1942, on the basis of technical documentation supplied by the Topf Chief Engineer, Prüfer, the Bauleitung produced drawing 1678 showing the implantation of Prüfer's latest branch, the 8-muffle furnace, also known as the double 4-muffle furnace (this drawing becoming in fact the first one for the future Krematorium IV). At 2 o'clock in the afternoon of 19th August 1942, Prüfer went to a meeting with members of the Auschwitz-Bauleitung in order to discuss the uncertain future of the two simplified 3-muffle furnace installations originally ordered for the POW camp and the installation of the five 3-muffle furnaces in the new Krematorium (the future Kr II) [Dawson 14]. After discussion with SS Second Lieutenant Ertl, it was decided the two Topf «fitters» (or foremen), Martin Holick and Willi Koch, should be rapidly detached to worksite 30. Then Prüfer suggested that the two simplified 3-muffle furnaces to be located near the «Baderanstalt für Sonderaktionen/Bathing installations for special actions» (Bunkers 1 and 2), should be taken from the Mogilev contingent. But this Mogilev contract was exclusively made up of 8-muffle furnaces, with no 3-muffle furnaces.

[It would appear that Prüfer was acting quite dishonestly (or, depending on the point of view, as a clever salesman), trying to exploit to the full the disastrous health situation in the camp. Motivated essentially by the prosperity of his firm and his own personal gain, he probably wanted to ensure the implantation of his furnaces (being also the creator of the 3-muffle furnace, standard and simplified model) in three stages. First, rapidly install a 2-muffle furnace intended for Mauthausen but sent in error [?] to Auschwitz; second, rapidly deliver two 3-muffle furnaces, taken from Topf stocks and sold to the «Mogilev» contract, installing one near Bunker 1 and the other near Bunker 2; third, being able to see with his own eyes the catastrophic state of the camp and having direct knowledge of what was going on there, he could foresee what was to happen (large-scale physical destruction of the Jews) and thus professionally assess the cremation requirements of the SS, suggesting the installation of one

or two 8-muffle furnaces in addition to the others, having already supplied the Bauleitung with technical details of this new furnace at the beginning of August. Prüfer, having finally succeeded in doing a profitable sales job in supplying cremation furnaces to KL Auschwitz-Birkenau (total sales: three 2-muffle furnaces, ten 3-muffle and two 8-muffle. But from all this he received a maximum commission of only 2,000 RM, something like 5,400 today) and slightly overestimated the real cremation requirements of the camp and his plan failed. First, the 2-muffle furnace was in fact sent on to Mauthausen; then the two 3-muffle furnaces remained on his hands (for only twelve 3-muffle furnaces were found in 1945 in Buchenwald and Birkenau, whereas four had been manufactured [letter from Prüfer to Ludwig and Ernst Topf dated 15/11/42]); lastly, he was not able to install one or two furnaces in addition to the four of the original Mogilev contract, because two furnaces from this contract were sent to Birkenau to equip Krematorium IV and V. At the beginning of July 1943, there remained in the Topf stores in Erfurt: two unsold 3-muffle furnaces and three 4-muffle half furnaces of the Mogilev contract, paid for but not delivered (only one half furnace had been actually been sent to Mogilev, on 30/12/41).

As for the five other 3-muffle furnaces to equip the second Krematorium (the future Kr III), no decision could be taken, because the construction of that building depended on the decision of the Reich Security Head Office (RSHA) in Berlin [and not the SS-WVHA, which confirms that at this date the construction of Krematorium III was not envisaged for health reasons but was planned strictly in the context of «Sonderaktionen/Special actions» which were the exclusive purview of the RSHA]. Taking advantage of the appalling state of the camp, Prüfer tried to palm off on the SS a 2-muffle furnace intended for KL Mauthausen and arrived by providential error at Auschwitz. Late in the afternoon, Prüfer, Ertl, SS Sergeant Kerschbaum and the chimney expert Robert Koshler went to Krematorium I in the main camp to inspect the chimney and assess damage caused by repeated overheating.

The next day, 20th August 1942, Ertl, SS Corporal Janasch, Koshler and Prüfer went to Birkenau to visit worksite 30 [Dawson 15 and 17a]. Then Prüfer pressed for written confirmation of the order for the two 3-muffle furnaces intended for Bunkers 1 and 2, and for the double-muffle furnace delivered in error.

On 24th August, Ertl gave Prüfer the go ahead for the delivery of two 8-muffle furnaces, these naturally to be taken from the «Mogilev» contract. On the other hand, the Bauleitung rejected the suggestion of installing the double-muffle furnace, which was subsequently sent to Mauthausen [Dawson 18, 19a and 19b]. The period from 21st to 24th August must have been nerve-racking for Prüfer. It was by no means certain that this civilian like him would succeed in taking two 3-muffle furnaces, being manufactured or already in stock at Erfurt, from the «Mogilev» contract which had no furnaces of that type, and transform them into the very latest 8-muffle furnaces, which were in the contract. It was not for nothing that Prüfer had become a member of the Nazi Party and had access to Himmler. Precisely because of his contacts in high places, he was starting to have considerable influence over the Auschwitz-Bauleitung in cremation matters. He emerged triumphant from this difficult situation, in that he was officially invited by the SS-WVHA in Berlin on 26th August to divert from the Mogilev contract to Birkenau two 8-muffle furnaces to equip the future Krematorium IV and V.

On 2nd September, Vedag learned from Huta the damp-proofing work was to be carried out in the basements of a crematorium (which that firm did not know) and in fact would have to be repeated (Krematorium II and III). Vedag gave a guarantee of two years.

On 3rd September, the Bauleitung informed Huta that the excavations for the future Leichenkeller 1 and 2 of Krematorium II had been completed ten days earlier (25th August) and it was high time that the damp-proofing work began [Dawson 19].

On 6th September, a new garrison doctor, SS Major Wirths, arrived at the camp to take the health situation in hand.

On 7th September, Vedag agreed to Huta's request to carry out the work required, while pointing out that they could not start without authorization to release the proofing materials necessary. On the same day, Huta informed Vedag that they had received and immediately passed on to the Bauleitung the requests for the release of felt and bitumen, that the construction of Kr II would have to proceed rapidly and that the firm was waiting for other release forms for the proofing materials required for Krematorium III. Furthermore, Huta warned the Bauleitung that damp proofing the basements with two layers of bituminous felt, as shown on the initial quotation, was not sufficient, and three layers would be necessary. At worksite 30, Topf fitters Holick and Koch were starting work on the foundations for the five 3-muffle furnaces.

On 9th September, Bischoff visited worksite 30 and saw that work was held up because of the lack of damp-proofing materials. He immediately informed Huta and offered to make the necessary materials available. The same day, Vedag requested Huta to send them the material release forms signed by the Bauleitung.

The deaths caused by the typhus epidemic were becoming a real problem for KL Auschwitz, a situation that was aggravated by the «outpost» of Bunkers 1 and 2. Camp Commandant Heese, accompanied by SS Second Lieutenant Hoeseler and Dejaco, therefore went on 16th September to the Litzmannstadt Ghetto and from there went to visit the «Sonderanlage/Special installations» (open air cremation ditch) run by SS Colonel Blobel, to assess the possibility of using the same method at Auschwitz.

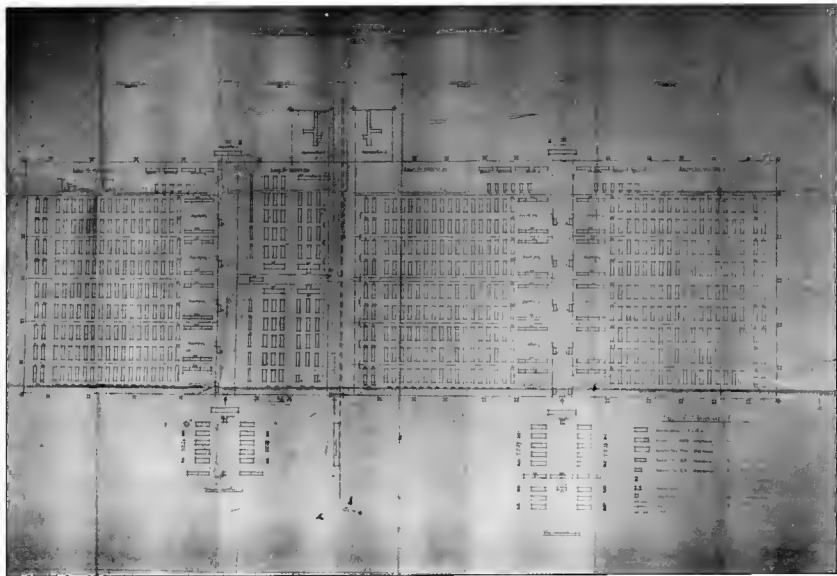
On 17th September, Huta informed Vedag that its requests for the release of materials had been sent to Himmler's headquarters and did not go through the regular channel of the «Reichsteile für Mineralöl/Reich office for mineral oils».

On 18th September, Huta explained to the Bauleitung that the delays occurring at worksite 30 due to the lack of damp-proofing were not caused by Huta but by Vedag, a civilian firm subject to regulations regarding the release of bituminous substances and which refused to employ its materials without authorization from the Reich office for mineral oils. Knowing that the Bauleitung SS were extremely irritated by this procedure, Huta advised them to take responsibility for damp-proofing the basements, using their own resources. The same day, authorization for the release of proofing materials for Vedag was drawn up by Himmler's headquarters.

LAGEPLAN DES KRIEGSGEFANGENLAGELAGERS AUSCHWITZ/OS
Situation plan of Auschwitz POW Camp, Upper Silesia

Scale: 1:3000
Drawn 15/8/42 by prisoner 15992
Checked by Ertl and approved Bischoff on the same day

Translation of new inscriptions:
Baubeschichte/Construction stage



Ref: 10. 4. 1944 / 44/10/10

AAAAVVVVVVVV

Zusatz: Anwesenheit von Oberst. Prüfer der Pa. Kopf u. Stabschef, bezüglich Anbahnung der Hinzuschaltung in L.O.L. Anwesenheit

Inhalt: Herr Ing. Prüfer sprach am 19.8.1944 um 14.00 Uhr bei Ministerialstelle vor, um über den Aufbau von 5 3-muffle 3-muffle-Hinzuschaltungen in Krematorien der L.O.L. und Bauweise von 8 Stück 3-muffle-Hinzuschaltungen in ein- bzw. zwei Stufen 11, Plan Nr. D 59-570 und Fr. D 59-599 als erforderlichen Hinzuschaltungen zu besprechen.

Hierbei wurde folgendes festgelegt:

1.) Im bestenfalls 16. - 17. August trifft der Herr Oberst Prüfer und Herr Oberst Stabschef in der 14. Stg. mit dem Aufbau und 3 Stück 3-muffle-Hinzuschaltungen in L.O.L. wird sofort begonnen. Der Pa. Stabschef Anwesenheit führt die Anwesenheit der Ofen und Flöcke sowie die Anwesenheit der Scherenschnitt 11, Flöcke und Angaben der Pa. Kopf u. Stabschef durch.

2.) Bezüglich Aufstellung von je 2 Brennstoffbehältern bei den "Krematorien für Sonderaktionen" wurde von Ing. Prüfer vorgelegt, die Ofen aus einem bestehenden Brennstoffbehälter nach Ingeln abzubauen und wieder an die Stelle der Brennstoffbehälter der anderen beiden 3-muffle-Hinzuschaltungen in Berlin zu versetzen, um die Anwesenheit der Ofen und Flöcke sowie die Anwesenheit der Scherenschnitt 11, Flöcke und Angaben der Pa. Kopf u. Stabschef durch.

3.) Bezüglich Bauweise eines 2. Krematoriums mit 5 3-muffle-Hinzuschaltungen, wurde der Pa. Stabschef vorgelegt, die Ofen aus einem bestehenden Brennstoffbehälter nach Ingeln abzubauen und wieder an die Stelle der Brennstoffbehälter der anderen beiden 3-muffle-Hinzuschaltungen in Berlin zu versetzen, um die Anwesenheit der Ofen und Flöcke sowie die Anwesenheit der Scherenschnitt 11, Flöcke und Angaben der Pa. Kopf u. Stabschef durch.

PAU 3

BW 30/27

Document 16/5
[PAC] for BW 30/27 pages 13 and 14

Translation:

Correspondence register no. 1211542/Er/1a

Summary record

Subject: Visit of Chief Engineer Prüfer of Messrs Topf & Sons of Erfurt regarding the construction of incineration installations at Auschwitz POW camp [Birkenau].

Proceedings: Herr Eng. Prüfer came to our office on 19/8/42 at 2 pm in order to discuss details of the installation of 5 3-muffle incineration furnaces at the POW camp Krematorium and a new type of simplified installation of 2 3-muffle furnaces, as shown on drawings D 59.570 and D 59.599.

The following was agreed:

- 1) The firm [Mann] Holzwerk will arrive here from Buchenwald not later than 26th or 27th August and fitter [Wid] Kock in about 14 days. The construction of the 5 3-muffle furnaces will commence immediately. Messrs Köhler [or Koehler] of Myslowitz will line the furnaces and the flues and will erect the chimney in accordance with Topf & Sons drawings and instructions.
- 2) Regarding the installation of each of the 2 3-muffle furnaces near the "bathing installation for special actions", Engineer Prüfer suggested that these furnaces should be taken from a crematorium already prepared for shipment to Mogilew. The Head of the appropriate service of the SS Economic and Administrative Head Office in Berlin (SS-WVHA) was immediately informed by telephone and requested to take the appropriate steps.
- 3) Regarding the construction of a 2nd crematorium with 5 3-muffle furnaces, together with the ventilation and an extraction system, it will be necessary to await the result of negotiations already under way with the Reich Security Main Office (RSHA) on the subject of raw materials.

- 4) The components of a double-muffle incineration furnace have been sent by error to Auschwitz by Topf & Sons, whereas they were in fact intended for Mauthausen.

[Manuscript note in the margin:
Furnace going back to Mauthausen? Ertl 24/8

Engineer Prüfer suggests installing the furnace here. The 2 charging doors and the 2 ash removal doors that are missing could be borrowed in the meantime from the consignment of 5 3-muffle incineration furnaces.

- 5) The damage to the new brickwork of the chimney for the existing Krematorium [K1 in the Stammlager] was examined by Herr Köhler and SS Sergeant Kirschne[ek] who discussed what measures to take. As the chimney lining works because of the great heat, it must be free in the upper part and not firmly bonded to the external brickwork.
- 6) On Thursday 20th August 1942, the work-out for the 5 3-muffle furnaces in the POW camp [BW 30] was visited by SS Corporal Janusch and Herr Köhler and the necessary details were discussed.
- 7) Eng. Prüfer requested a written order for the delivery of the 2 3-muffle furnaces and the double muffle incineration furnace and a rapid decision on whether the furnaces are to be taken from the consignment intended for Mogilew.

[Manuscript note in the margin:
24/8/42 Given to Prüfer

1. Agreed
2. the two 3-muffle furnaces can be taken from the Mogilew consignment (in accordance with the instructions of Head of Service SS Major Lenzle)
Ertl 24/8
- 8) 10 transport authorizations are to be immediately sent to Topf & Sons for delivery of the refractory and other missing materials.

[signed Ertl]
SS Second Lieutenant (Specialist)

Signed by
[initialed Bischoff]
SS Captain (Specialist)

Auschwitz, 21st August 1942

[This new 4-muffle furnace could be twinned to give an 8-muffle furnace. It was probably designed by Prüfer in November 1941. Himmler ordered four pairs from Topf at the beginning of December 1941 for the Mogilew camp (located on the Soviet Union, 200 km East of Minsk). This deal was known as the "Mogilew Contract".]

- 4.) Nach Ansicht wurden von der Fa. Topf & Söhne
irrtümlich die Teile eines Doppelmaffel-Einscheuerung-
ofens gesandt, welche jedoch für Mauthausen bestimmt
waren.

Man sieht auch
Mauthausen
24.8.42

Ing. Prüfer schlägt vor, den Ofen hier zur Aufstellung
zu bringen. Die fehlenden 2 Muffelöffnungen und 2 Aus-
schüttöffnungen können innerhalb der Lieferung der
5 Dreimaffel-Einscheuerungsofen entnommen werden.

- 5.) Die Schäden an dem neu gemauerten Schornstein für das
bestehende Krematorium wurden gemeinsam mit Herrn
Köhler und H-Unterscharführer Kirschnek besichtigt und
die an ergreifenden Maßnahmen besprochen. - Da das
Feuermauerwerk infolge der großen Hitze arbeitet,
und es oben frei durchgehen und darf nicht mit dem
Außenmauerwerk fest verbunden sein.

- 6.) Am Donnerstag des 20. August 1942 wurde gemeinsam mit
H-Strm. Janusch u. Herrn Köhler die Remonte des
5 Dreimaffelofens in K.L. besichtigt, und die erforderlichen
Einzelheiten durchgesprochen.

12.8.42 kann Topf
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100. Muffel-Öfen

- 7.) Eng. Prüfer hat ein schriftliches Auftrag über die
Lieferung der 2 Stück 3 Muffel- und des Doppelmaffel-
Einscheuerungsofen, sowie ein baldige Mitteilung,
ob die Ofen der Lieferung logisch abgeworfen werden
können.

- 8.) Dem Antransport des fehlenden Schornsteins und sonstigen
Materialies sind der Fa. Topf & Söhne sofort 10 Fracht-
briefe einzusenden.

Lue
H-Unterscharführer (S)

Kommandant

H-Unterscharführer (S)

Auschwitz, den 21. August 1942.

As a result of Hoess' visit to SS Colonel Blobel, the extermination and incineration of the corpses buried earlier began at Barkan on 20th September, first on pyres, then in open-air ditches. To accelerate the process, the bodies were doused with crude oil, which was later replaced by methanol.

On 22nd December, the Bauleitung Drawing Office produced a situation plan of the POW camp, drawing 1697, this time with three construction stages (with a maximum capacity of 140,000 prisoners), still with only two Krematorien (II and III), giving 1 incineration in the field for 4,700 people. Even though the construction of Krematorium IV and V had been decided upon, their location did not yet figure on the drawing. The double track railway did not stop at the gates to the Krematorien but continued beyond them [Document 18].

SS Lieutenant-General Pohl, head of the SS-WVHA, inspected the Auschwitz camp on 23rd September and was able to see that an epidemic was raging there.

Between 18th and 26th September, Vedag finally sent the long-awaited damp-proofing materials to Bauleitung, but this did not prevent them from asking Huta on 26th for 'standard' materials release authorizations in order to regularize the situation. At the same time they asked Huta to pass on a letter to Vedag foreman Krause whose exact address they did not know!

Probably at Pohl's request, Dr Ernst Robert Grawitz, Head of the German Red Cross, made a thorough inspection of the camp on 25th September. He saw the sick quarters overflowing, corpse storage, the temporary water treatment installations, the extermination of the Jews and the incineration of corpses in open-air ditches.

On 29th September, Huta sent Vedag the release issued by Himmler's head-quarters, hoping that this would settle the question of the formalities. But this was not to be, for on 1st October Vedag replied to Huta that so far as they were concerned this release had no legal value and the papers had to be filled in, signed and sent solely to the Reich office for mineral oils. Despite these administrative difficulties, damp-proofing work at BW 30 proceeded without a hitch until 2nd October, when work stopped due to a problem with drain pipes that had to pass through the proofing material.

On 7th October, the Bauleitung signed the second request for the release of damp-proofing material, this time for worksite 30a (Krematorium III).

On 13th October, the Auschwitz Bauleitung informed the Head of Office CIV of the SS-WVHA in Berlin of the cost of the contracts for the construction of the KGL (POW camp) according to the estimates of the civilian firms Less & Co and Huta, and the cost of the shell of a new crematorium in this camp [Document 12]. This letter mentions the urgency of constructing the new crematorium, an argument often

advanced as proof of its criminal intent, but this argument is invalid, because for the SS, ALL construction was urgent. On the other hand, this document is still vital, for it proves that the Krematorien were associated with 'special actions'.

On 14th October, there was a meeting on the Auschwitz Bauleitung building between its senior staff and two Huta representatives, Herr Siegfried and Herr Sados. The floors of the basements in Krematorien II and III, originally planned to be 12 cm thick, were increased to 50 cm of non-reinforced concrete [Bauleitung drawing 933/934 (fp) and Huta drawings 109/13a, 114a and 116a].

On 17th October, Vedag foreman Krause, working with Bauleitung materials on the damp-proofing of the basements of Krematorium III, estimated that this would be finished by 31st October.

On 19th October, Vedag asked for release requests for the damp-proofing materials for Krematorium III, not wanting to deliver them without 'standard' authorization (which is why the SS had advanced materials to foreman Krause). Messrs Karl Falck completed the first stage of the drainage work at worksite 30, commenced ten days earlier on 9th October.

On 24th October, Huta sent the Bauleitung a first batch of twenty pages of static calculations accompanied by its drawings 109/2, 4, 5 and 6 of Krematorien II and III, Huta project number 7015/IV. These static calculations also concerned the chimneys, identical for the two buildings, which were not built designed by the Bauleitung on the basis of drawings supplied by Topf.

On 26th October, there was an incident at worksite 30a concerning the sizing of the concrete before damp-proofing, with disagreement between SS Section Lieutenant Janssch and foreman Krause, the latter considering the operation unnecessary in view of the damp and rainy weather. It is not known how the argument ended, but the suspicion must be that it cost Krause very dear, because a letter of 4th May 1943 indicates that he had been called up in the Wehrmacht [PMO file BW 30/30, page 3], whereas if he had played his cards right he should have been able to volunteer for the Waffen-SS and get himself detached to the Auschwitz Bauleitung, a real 'worthy number' compared with the 'external' fronts.

During the period 27th October to 11th November, the only documents referring to BW 30 are the «Arbeitszeit Bescheinigungen/ Timesheets» of the fitter Willi Koch concerning the foundations for the furnaces and the underfloor floors, and the «Bauberichten/Construction reports» on the erection of the furnaces [PMO file BW 10411].

On 12th November, Huta produced drawing 109/9 (Dissecting room ceiling), and on 13th, drawing 109/10 (Warm incineration room ceiling supporting beams and the linoleum). These were sent to the Bauleitung on 14th October, together with more static calculations concerning project number 7015/IV.

Documents 17



Documents 17 and 17a

[PMO neg 70901/147 177 and 1744 (17a)]

An example of a workmen inspection visit, of which there were many (18/10/43). In this particular case, the site is the «Wasserleitungsleitungsbau/ Water treatment installations» located to the east of the external road running along between the parallel with «Grabensteinsgraben» ditch, C.C.I. running through the second construction stage (BA II). These photographs were taken in the summer of 1943 and the SS officer is probably SS Lieutenant Aschauer who was shortly to become Head of the Bauleitung.

Documents 17a



**Zentral-Bauleitung
der Waffen-SS und Polizei
Aufschwitz O.S.**

Aufschwitz, am 3. September 1942
Oberster Befehlshaber Nr. 66
General Meynert Nr. 92339

Befehl.-Nr. 1277/42/Stb./2u. Bei Rückantwort Angabe des
Abkürzungszeichens notwendig

Betr.: Jeolierungsarbeiten am Krematorium in
Kriegsgefängnislager
Baug.: Beschichtung der Baustelle durch H. Hutaf, (S)
Bischoff am 3.9.42
Anl.: - -



Firma
Huta, Hoch- und Tiefbau-
Aktiengesellschaft
Kattowitz O/S

Die zwei Wannen des obigen Gebäudes sind bereits
seit ca. 10 Tagen fertiggestellt, sodass nun unbedingt
sofort die Jeolierungsarbeiten in Angriff zu nehmen sind.

Nach mehreren Rücksprachen dieserhalb mit Ihrem
Bauführer, Herrn Stephan, wurde der Beginn dieser Arbeiten
für Montag, den 7.9.42, zugesagt. Die Bauleitung erwar-
tet, daß dieser Termin auf jeden Fall eingehalten wird,
da die weit vorgedruckte Jahreszeit keine weitere Ver-
schiebung mehr zuläßt.

Der Leiter der Zentral-Bauleitung
der Waffen-SS und Polizei Aufschwitz

Hauptbauführer

Das Kettengelenk ist nicht
geeignet und soll ersetzt werden.

Translation:

Waffen SS and Police
Central Construction Management
Anschwitz

Anschwitz, 3rd September 1942

When replying quote
reference number

Correspondence register no. 1277/42/Stb/Qu

Subject: Damp-proofing work in the Krematorium of the POW camp
Reference: Inspection of the worksite by SS Captain (S) Bischoff on 3/9/42
Enclosure:

Huta, Hoch- und Tiefbau-
Aktiengesellschaft
Kattowitz, Upper Silesia

The two excavations for the above building were completed about 10 days ago [since 25th August], so that the damp-proofing work absolutely must begin immediately.

After several conversations on this subject with your foreman Herr Stephan, the start of this work has been fixed for Monday, 7/9/42. The Bauleitung expects this date to be respected without fail, for the lateness of the season allows of no further delay.

Head of the Waffen SS and Police
Construction Management Anschwitz

[Signed] Bischoff
SS Captain (S)

[Initials of a Huta man]

Document 20
[PHO file BW 21/11 page 211218]

LAGEPLAN DES KREIGSGEFANGENENLAGERS-AUSCHWITZ/GS
Situation plan of Anschwitz POW Camp, Upper Silesia

VORLUTPLAN/Plan of drainage ditchen
Scale 1:2000

Drawing 1197

Drawn 22/9/42 by prisoner 15592

Checked by SS Second Lieutenant Ertz

and approved by SS Captain Bischoff on the same day

The first construction stage was to contain 20,000 prisoners, the second 60,000 and the third 80,000 giving a total of 140,000



24. 2. 1943
Abschrift
24. 2. 1943
144
Betr.: Krematorium II. Endmontent.
Betreff: Fernschreiben des H-WehA Nr. 2546 vom 22.2.43.
Anlg.: 1 Prüfbericht

Am
Antwortschein Nr. 6,
H-WehA-Führer und Generalmajor
der Waffen-SS Dr. Ing. Kammler,
Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Post
Unter den Eichen 126-132

Das Krematorium II wurde unter Einsatz aller verfügbaren Kräfte trotz ungünstiger Schweißverhältnisse und kaltem Wetter bei Tag- und Nachtschicht bis zur beabsichtigten Fertigstellung. Die Ofen wurden in Betrieb genommen. Die Ofenoberflächen der Ofen sind durch die Firma Topf u. Söhne, Erfurt, angefertigt und funktionieren tadellos. Die Gasabfuhr des Leichenbrennens konnte infolge Frostschadwirkung noch nicht eingeschalt werden. Die ist jedoch unbedenklich, da der Vergasungskeller hierfür benutzt werden kann.

Die Firma Topf u. Söhne konnte infolge Kriegssperre die Fr- und Ventilationsanlage nicht wie von der Zentralbauleitung gefordert rechtzeitig anliefern. Nach Eintreffen der Fr- und Ventilationsanlage wird jedoch mit dem Einbau sofort begonnen, sodass voraussichtlich am 22.2.43 die Anlage vollständig betriebsfähig ist.

Ein Bericht des Prüfungsausschusses der Firma Topf u. Söhne, Erfurt, wird beigelegt.

Der Leiter der Zentralbauleitung
der Waffen-SS und Polizei Auschwitz

H-Hauptstaatsführer

Verteilter:
1 H-WehA Janisch u. Kirschneck
1 Registratur (Akt Krematorium)

P. d. B. d. A.:

Buchhoff
H-WehA (17)

Document 22
P. d. B. d. A. Nr. 30-34 page 100 and annex 1 to Volume 11 of the Rosen Trail (page 64)

Translation:

[Manuscript] SS Second Lieutenant (Specialist) Kirschneck

Copy

Correspondence register no. 22250/43/BdL

29th January 1943

Subject: Krematorium II. State of construction
Reference: SS-WVHA telegram 2648 of 28/1/43
Enclosure: 1 Inspection Report

Head of Amisgruppen C
SS Lieutenant-General and Waffen SS Major-General
Dr Ing [Engineer] Kammler

Berlin, Lustenfeldt-Weg
Unter den Eichen 126-132

Krematorium II has been completed but for minor details, thanks to employing all available forces, despite enormous difficulties and freezing weather, using day and night shifts. The furnaces have been lit in the presence of Herr Chief Engineer Prüfer of the firm responsible for their construction, Topf & Sons of Erfurt, and they function perfectly. Because of the frost, it has not yet been possible to remove the formwork from the ceiling of the corpse cellar. This is of no consequence, however, as the gassing cellar can be used to this end [i.e. as a morgue].

Because the wagons are blocked, Messrs Topf & Sons have not been able to deliver on time the ventilation and air extraction installations as requested by the Bauleitung. These will be fitted as soon as they arrive, so that it is probable that the installation will be entirely ready for service on 20th February 1943.

Please find enclosed a report by the inspecting engineer of Topf & Sons, Erfurt.

Head of the Auschwitz Waffen SS and Police
Central Construction Management

[signed] Buchhoff
SS Captain

Distribution:
1 SS Second Lieutenant Janisch and Kirschneck
1 Registration

For Archives
[signed] Pollok
SS Second Lieutenant (S)

Abeschrift

29. Januar 1944.

101

Betrifft: Prüfbericht des Ing. F r i e d r .

An die
Zentralbauleitung der
Waffen- und Polizei

Auschnitt 0/0

Auf Grund der heute vormittags stattgefundenen Besprechung mit der Bauleitung und der darauf folgenden Besichtigung der Krematorien II, III, IV und V habe ich folgendes festgestellt.

Krematorium II

Der Gebäudekomplex ist baulich bis auf kleinere Nebenarbeiten fertiggestellt (Decke des Leichenkellers 2 kann wegen Frost noch nicht ausgeschalt werden).

Die 5 Stück Dreimuffel-Minischmelzöfen sind fertig und werden e.zt. trockengetestet. Die Anlieferung der Be- und Entlüftungsalage für die Leichenkeller veranlagte sich in Folge der Wagengasparie, sodass der Einbau voraussichtlich erst in 14 Tagen erfolgen kann. Somit ist die Inbetriebnahme des Krematoriums II bestimmt am 19.2.43 möglich.

Krematorium III

Die Außenmauern des Ofengebäudes sowie der Schornstein sind fertig. Mit dem Einbau der Rauchkanäle für die Minischmelzöfen wird in 6 Tagen begonnen. Der Einbau der 5 Stück Dreimuffel-Minischmelzöfen kann in ca 5 Wochen erfolgen. Die Inbetriebnahme dieser Minischmelzöfen ist frühestens vom 17.4.43 möglich.

Krematorium IV

Der Aufbau sowie die Fundamente sind fertiggestellt. Mit dem Aufbau des Dreimuffel-Minischmelzofens wird am Montag, dem 1.2.43 begonnen. Die Arbeiten werden am 20.2.43 beendet sein.

Krematorium V

Die Fundamente der Außenmauern sowie eines Schornsteins sind in Bau. Die Fertigstellung dieses Krematoriums wird im Wesentlichen von der Witterung abhängen.

- 2 -

Document 23
[PMO file BW 30/34, page 101]

Translation:

[Manuscript] SS Second Lieutenant (Specialist) Kuschneck BW 30

Copy

29th January 1943

Subject: Inspection report by engineer Prüfer

To Waffen SS and Police Central
Construction Management

Auschwitz, Upper Silesia

As a result of this morning's conversation with the Bauleitung and the subsequent visit to Krematorien II, III, IV and V, I have established the following:

Krematorium II

This complex is completed, from the standpoint of construction, but for secondary details (the form-work cannot yet be removed from corpse cellar 2 because of the frost).

The 5 three-muffle incineration furnaces are completed and are at present being warmed through to dry them. Delivery of the ventilation and air extraction systems for the corpse cellars has been delayed by the blockage of wagons, so that it will probably not be possible to install them for another 10 days. It will therefore certainly be possible to bring Krematorium II into service on 15/2/43 [in fact it was officially handed over on 31/3/43, a month and a half late].

Krematorium III

The external walls of the furnace building [actually room] and the chimney are completed. In 8 days installation of the incineration furnace flues will begin. Installation of the 5 three-muffle incineration furnaces can be done in about 5 weeks. It will be possible to bring these incineration furnaces into service at the earliest on 17/4/43 [in fact Kr III was handed over on 25/6/43, two and a half months late].

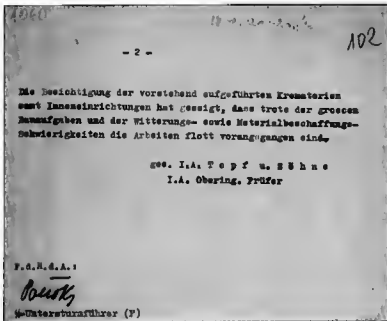
Krematorium IV

The shell and the foundations are completed. Construction of the eight-muffle incineration furnace will begin on Monday 1/2/43. Work will be completed for the 26/2/43 [in fact Kr IV was handed over on 20/3/43, less than a month late].

Krematorium V

The foundations of the external walls and of one chimney are under construction. Completion of this Krematorium will depend mainly on weather conditions.

- 2 -



Document 22a
(PMO file BW 3037, page 102)

Translation:

- 2 -

The inspection of the above-mentioned Krematorien and their internal installations has shown that despite the great amount of construction work involved and the difficulties due to weather conditions and the supply of materials, work has progressed rapidly.

Signed for I. A. Topf & Sons
Chief Engineer Prüfer

For Archives
[signed] Pollok
SS Second Lieutenant (S)

The cremation of disinterred corpses in open air ditches was completed on 30th November. According to Hutsa, this operation destroyed 107,000 corpses.

The last date shown on the Topf & Söhne's, 30th November, seems to mark the end of the mass construction work on the five 3-muffle furnaces, but they were not yet entirely complete or operational.

On 16th December, the 179 prisoners at work site 30 and their capo (the number was at a maximum at that date, on average it was about one hundred) worked only in the morning, 4 hours instead of the usual 8 (PMO file BW 3037, page #3). This was probably connected with the security operation that was mounted over the next two days.

On 17th December, the camp Gestapo, for reasons of security, locked a "Sonderaktion/Special action" was probably in fact by the previous day) AMONG THE CIVILIAN WORKERS (of whom there were about 40 or 50 at work site 30). [INB, the term "special action" in this context means checks and interrogations among a specific category of person and has nothing to do with the selection of those fit for work and the gassing of the rest]. In fact, a telex of 18th December signed by Buschhoff (Document 21) specifically mentions the operation as being from 16th December, and two Hutsa & Tagesberichte/Timesheets confirm it indirectly, the report for 17th stating: "Today there were neither civilian workers nor prisoners at the work site [30] and thus for 18th: 'Again, no civilians at the worksite'. Buschhoff's telex is the ONLY document concerning the Krematorien that is classified "SECRET", and yet it contains nothing out of the ordinary. The mention "Secret" is probably a result of the Gestapo action, which made the Bauleitung SS more security conscious - for four days. Once the alert was over, they fell back into their administrative routine to such an extent that they made several "slips" that are now considered to be definite criminal traces, beginning about the middle of January 1943. The telex, in announcing in the same breath the completion dates for these Krematorien and the sending of civilian workers on holiday, borders on the surrealism, in that it disregards a basic fact: buildings do not advance when nobody is working on them. The delays to the official handover of the Krematorien as compared with the dates announced were: one month for Krematorium IV, just under two months for Krematorium II and just under three months for Krematorium III. In order to make up for the twelve working days lost, the SS and to minimize night shifts to work on the Krematorien

On 19th December, SS Second Lieutenant Depaco PERSONALLY DREW drawing 2003 (see annex) concerning the partial rearrangement of the ground floor of the western part of Krematorium II and the junction between Leichenkeller I and 2 in the basement. The elimination of the "Rutsche/[corpses] chute" makes the drawing uncomprehensible, unless one accepts that the plan was for the corpses destined for incineration to enter the two morgues on their own two feet, hence STILL ALIVE. This drawing gives rise to the question: why did the SS want to bring live people into morgues, places generally reserved for the dead? The gradual adaptation of the Krematorien to become instruments of large-scale murder enables this question to be answered

On 22nd December, the Bauleitung informed Messrs Topf in their 1st of the planned completion dates for Krematorien II, III, IV AND V (the planned date for this last being 31st March 1943 and the actual

handover date being 4th April, only four days later), the dates for the first three having been announced in the telex of 18th December, and requesting that these dates be respected and that Topf and their principal representatives for these buildings, Prüfer, take all necessary steps to this end. It should be noted that this letter (the Bauleitung), still under the influence of the recent Gestapo "Sonderaktion" as the camp, coyly refers to the Krematorien as "Anlagen/installations", a foolish attempt at dissimulation in view of the clearly stated subject of the letter: "KGL Auschwitz. Krematorien" (PMO file BW 3037, page 197)

From Wednesday 23rd December 1942 until Monday 4th January 1943, WORKSITES 30 AND 30a WERE DESERTED, THEIR CIVILIAN PERSONNEL BEING ON HOLIDAY WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SS.

Having left Erfurt on 4th January 1943, the Topf fitter, Messing, arrived at Auschwitz on the morning of the 5th for the commencement of work on BW 30 and 30a. That same afternoon, he started the job of fitting the three (suction-type) forced draught installations on three sides of the collective chimney of Krematorium II, a job that took him until 24th January.

On 13th January, the Bauleitung reminded the Auschwitz DAW (German Equipment Workshops) that its woodworkshop shop was to produce on time the articles ordered for the different workshops around the camp. Particular mention was made of the doors ordered by the Bauleitung on 26th October 1943 "for Krematorium I [to become KI II] at the POW camp [Birkenau] of which there is urgent need, 'zur Durchführung des Sondermassnahmen/for implementing the special measures' [Volume II of the Hutsa Trail, Annex 4, microfilm no 205]. The same day, Messrs Karl Falek began work on the draught of Krematorium II, a job that lasted until 30th March.

On 18th January, the DAW replied that the doors for workshops 30 and 30a had been made in accordance with the five tracings attached to the letter and that the Bauleitung should suspect them for conformity. It was Kirschneck who did this. The DAW also told the Bauleitung that any required changes could be made up to 21st January. However, it was not until 23rd that the Bauleitung told the DAW that one door thickness had to be increased and at the same time requested delivery of the windows for the roof space of Krematorium II (the two at each gable end and the thirteen dormer windows).

Between 26th January and 7th February, Messing fitted the pulsed air blower motors (known as "secondary motors") on the five 3-muffle furnaces of Krematorium II.

On 27th January, the Bauleitung informed Hutsa that their supplier, Herr Stephan, had not used a frost protection agent when pouring the concrete roof of Leichenkeller 2, despite the cold weather. Furthermore, the pit for the corpse lift (of Kr III), which should have been allowed for in the foundations, had been forgotten. It was now being dug, thus compromising the handover date for Krematorium II [?] and should be temporarily stopped, but the work was continuing despite the orders given. If either of these faults caused the slightest damage or delay, Hutsa would have to take the consequences. Krematorium II had to be finished by 31st January. This letter was not without effect, for Hutsa finished the shell of Krematorium II almost on time.

160

Stb.-Nr.:

/13.11.43.

Auschwitz, 27.2.1943.

AD

Aktenvermerk

Handwritten signature

Auf Grund der heute vormittag stattgefundenen Besprechung mit der Bauleitung und der darauffolgenden Besichtigung der Krematorien II, III, IV und V wurden nachstehende Fertigstellungsstermine vereinbart und von mir aus derobius für möglich gehalten.

Krematorium II

Bei diesem Gebäudekomplex stellte ich fest, daß das Ofenraumgebäude mit den Nebenräumen vollkommen fertiggestellt ist, desgleichen auch der große Leichenkeller 1.

Der Leichenkeller 2 ist soweit fertiggestellt, wie auf die Anschaffung der Recke, welche Arbeiten von freierhand Tagen abhängig sind. Die 5 Stück 3 Metall-Hinnehängewerfen sind fertig und werden a.2. trockengetriebe. Die elektrischen Anschlüsse für die aus Ofen gehenden Motoren für die Bruchkraftgebläse werden a.2. verlegt. Die 3 großen Stempelrollen, an den Schmetzen befindlich, sind eingekant und betriebsfertig erstellt, nach hier werden nur Zeit die elektrischen Anschlüsse für die Motoren verlegt.

Der Leichenanfang wird a.2. provisorisch eingekant (als Platzanweisung).

Die Ba- und Heilfungsanlage für die Leichenkeller ist infolge der Wagnersperre, die vor einigen Tagen erst aufgehoben wurde, noch nicht eingetroffen, die Wagners rollen und wird möglich mit dem Eintreffen dieser Materialien geliefert. Der Einbau kann in ca. 10 Tagen erfolgen.

Demit kann die vollkommene Inbetriebnahme des Krematoriums II bestimmt am 13.2.1943 erfolgen.

Der im Gebäudekomplex des vorstehenden Krematoriums untergebrachte Heilverbrennungsraum wird in den nächsten Tagen fertiggestellt. Auch ist für diesen Ofen der Aufbau bereits fertig.

Document 24
(PMO file BW 3034, page 105)

Translation:

[Manuscript] BW 30 Krems I

Correspondence register no. 43/Kirschbeck/Lp

Auschwitz, 29/1/43

Summary Report

[Manuscript] Invalid I

As a result of this morning's conversation with the Bauleitung and the subsequent inspection of Krematorium II, III, IV and V, the following completion dates were agreed upon, and can in my opinion be expected.

Krematorium II

In this complex, I observed that the building with the furnace room and its ancillary rooms is entirely completed, as is the large corpse cellar 1.

Corpse cellar 2 is completed as far as possible apart from removal of the formwork for the ceiling, work which depends on there being no frost. The 5 3-muffle incineration furnaces are ready and are at present being warmed through for drying. The electrical connections for the pulsed-air blower motors forming part of the furnace installation are at present being installed [by the Topf firm, Messing]. The three big [suction-type] forced draught installations in the chimneys are in place and ready to operate. Here again, the electrical connections for the motors are being installed [by Messing].

The corpse hoist is being installed on a temporary basis [awaiting delivery of an electric lift].

The ventilation and air-extraction systems for the corpse cellars have not yet arrived due to the blockage of wagons, which was only lifted a few days ago. The wagons are now moving again and this material is expected any day. They can be installed in about 10 days.

It will therefore certainly be possible to bring Krematorium II completely into service on 13/2/43.

The waste incinerator installed in this complex of buildings will be completed in the next few days. The annex construction housing this incinerator is already completed.

106.

Krematorium III

Bei diesem Krematorium sind die Außenmauern des Gebäudes fertig und die Ofenmauersteine sind zur Zeit eingeschalt. Der Bohrmstein mit 3 Böhren wird in 3 Tagen fertig sein. Somit erfolgen bei diesem Krematorium die Riebstufen der 5 Muffel 3 Muffel-Insulationsöffnen in 5 Tagen. Jedoch werden die Riebstufen von den Ofen in 5 Tagen begonnen. Die Wärme für die Grundwasserisolation, sowie die dreilagige aufgelegte Pappisolationierung samt Riebstufen ist fertiggestellt, ebenso die Entwässerung innerhalb der beiden Leichenkeller. Gegenwärtig wird Belastungsbeton eingebracht.

Die Inbetriebnahme der 3 Muffel-Insulationsöffnen ist am 17.4.1943 möglich.

Krematorium IV

Das Ofengebäude nebst den zwei Bohrmsteinen und den Nebenräumen sind soweit fertig, das Ofenfundament hergestellt. Mit dem Aufbau des 3 Muffel-Insulationsöffnen wird am Montag, dem 1.2.1943 begonnen, die Fertigstellung des Ofens erfolgt am 20.2.1943.

Krematorium V

Die Baumaterialien liegen auf der Lagerstelle. Die Fundamente für die Gebäudemauernsackmauern sind begonnen, desgleichen auch das Fundament für einen Bohrmstein. Die Arbeiten an diesem Krematorium werden mit besonderem Hochdruck vorangetrieben. Die Fertigstellung des Krematoriums wird in wesentlichen von der Witterung abhängen. Sollten der Februar und März gelindes Wetter haben, sodaß mit Hochdruck gearbeitet werden kann, so kann das Krematorium Ende April in Betrieb kommen.

Die Besichtigung der vorstehend aufgeführten Krematoriumsgebäude und Inneneinrichtungen hat gezeigt, daß trotz der großen Herausgaben und der Materialbeschaffungsschwierigkeiten die Arbeiten flott vorangegangen sind.

Document 24a
(PMO file BW 3934, page 106)

Translation:

- 2 -

Krematorium III

In this Krematorium, the external walls of the building are completed and the formwork is at present being erected for the furnace room ceiling. The three-flue chimney will be completed in 3 days. The installation in this Krematorium of the 5 3-muffle furnaces will take place in 5 weeks [16th March]. However, work on the furnace flues will start in 8 days [16th Feb]. The basins for protection from groundwater and the three layers of damp-proofing, including the protective concrete, are completed, as is the internal drainage of the two corpse cellars. The ballast concrete is at present being poured.

It will be possible to bring to [5] 3-muffle furnaces into service on 17/4/43

Krematorium IV

The furnace building, the two chimneys and the ancillary rooms are completed. The furnace foundations are ready. The erection of the 3-muffle incineration furnace will begin on Monday, 1/2/43 and the furnace will be completed on 28/2/1943.

Krematorium V

The construction materials are on the site. Work has begun on the foundations for the external walls and for one chimney. Work on this Krematorium will proceed as quickly as possible, but its completion will depend mainly on weather conditions. If the weather is mild in February and March, permitting intensive work, it will be possible to bring the Krematorium into service at the end of April [it was actually handed over on 4th April].

The inspection of the above-mentioned crematorium buildings and their internal installations has shown that despite the great amount of construction work involved and the difficulties due to weather conditions and the supply of materials, work has progressed rapidly.

[In the author's opinion the note "invalid" probably concerns the date of bringing the Krematorium into service or the conclusion of the last paragraph]

Abeschrift

2. Februar 1943

Mtgh.-Nr. 22356/43/Hi./Ko.

Betr.: Prüfbericht des Ing. Prüfer der Firma
Topf und Söhne, Erfurt, vom 29.1.1943
über den Bauzustand des Krematoriums II

Bewag: - - -

Anlg.: 1 Abeschrift

In dem
Lagerkommandanten
Hauptsturmbannführer
K. L. Anschütz

In der Anlage wird ein Prüfbericht des Ing. Prüfer
der ausführenden Firma Topf und Söhne, Erfurt, über den
Bauzustand des Krematoriums II, III, IV und V im K.O.L.
mit der Bitte um Kenntnisnahme überreicht.

Der Leiter der Zentralverwaltung
der Waffen-SS und Polizei Anschütz

Hauptsturmbannführer

Verteilt

Registreur, Krematorium II-V, K.O.L.

P.O. R. G. L. 1
Anschütz
G-Dienst (P)

Document 22
[P.O. R. G. L. 10-14 page 99]

Translation:

[manuscript] SS Second Lieutenant (S) Karschneck

BW 30

Copy

2nd February 1943

Correspondence register no. 22356/43/Bu/Ko

Subject: Inspection report of 29/1/43 by Engineer Prüfer
of Messrs Topf & Sons of Erfurt concerning the state of
construction of Krematorium II

Reference: -

Enclosure: 1 copy

Camp Commandant
SS Lieutenant-Colonel
Hees

KL Anschütz

Please find enclosed for your information an inspection report by Engineer Prüfer of the firm involved,
Messrs Topf & Sons of Erfurt, concerning the state of construction of Krematorium II, III, IV and V of
the POW camp

Head of the Anschütz Waffen SS and Police
Central Construction Management

SS Major

Distribution:
Registration, Krematorium II-V, POW camp

For Archives
[Signed] Poffok
SS Second Lieutenant (Specialist)

On the morning of 29th January, two days before the planned date for bringing Krematorium II into service (31st), Bischoff, Kirschchock and Prüfer, probably accompanied by other Bauleitung SS and representatives of all the civilian firms working on the Krematorium, went to Bikernau and thoroughly inspected work sites 30a, 30b and 30c. In the afternoon, Kirschchock drew up a detailed report of the inspection (Documents 24 and 24a). As soon as he had finished, Prüfer read it and coolly wrote it, simplifying the text to remove some of the obvious details. Prüfer entitled the shortened text "Prüfer's inspection report" and gave it to Bischoff (Documents 33 and 32a). Then Bischoff, in response to a request made the previous day by the SS-WVHA in Berlin (or a progress report, sent the Prüfer report off to his chief, Kammler, informing him that Krematorium II was completed (Document 22) and claiming it was operational, which was far from the case. He wrote that he expected the building to be ready for official handover on 20th February, whereas the actual date was 31st March. This "evasive compromise" brought Bischoff immediate promotion: he was made a Major the next day, 30th February. Bischoff was very cleverly manoeuvring his superior, and the delays that inevitably appeared were attributed to Prüfer and hence to Messrs Topf, which was only fair. However, in his letter Bischoff made an enormous gap, explaining to Kammler that though it had unfortunately not been possible to remove the formwork from the ceiling of Leichenkeller 2, because of the Silesian cold, this was of little importance, because the "Vergasungskeller" could be used in his stead (as a normal morgue). This was the fatal word, "gassing cells", written by Bischoff himself and designating Leichenkeller 1, as can be seen after cross-checking with Kirschchock's report and Prüfer's simplified "inspection report". This is the first of the ellipses that SS and civilians could not help making, involuntarily or otherwise, as the criminal conversion of the Krematorium progressed, since in the course of their work they had to give precise designations to the homicidal installations. The afternoon of 29th January 1943 was extremely busy, because in addition, Bischoff and Prüfer considered the possibility of constructing a SIXTH INCINERATION INSTALLATION, KREMATORIUM VI, based on the principle of open-air incineration ditches and the experience gained with them in the Barkenau works between 20th September and 20th November 1942. Prüfer was to produce the drawings and Pollok was to follow progress for the Bauleitung (Volume II of the Hoess trial, Annex 1, page 58). Prüfer being a firm worker, both in business and in designing furnaces, it is most likely that on his return home from Auschwitz, and according to his habit, he produced the plans for this project at home (2 Harnau-Göringstrasse, Buchsleben) and during the free time (hence probably on Sunday 31st January). The drawings of this envisaged new cremation installation have not come down to us. It was designated as an "offene Verbrennungs-kammerofen" cremation chamber or "offener Ring-Einschiebungsofen/Ring ring incineration furnace. Pollok reported that its dimensions were "48 7/8 by 3 7/8 metres". Bearing in mind that this "furnace-pit" was most probably circular, these dimensions could apply to the overall installation or to the diameter and depth of the pit. In the latter case, the surface area of the "furnace" would be 1,365 m² and the cubic capacity approximately 7,000 m³, which is absolutely gigantic and technically quite utopian. In order to remain explicable within the limits of human strength, the diameter would have to be no more than about fifteen metres.

[In the author's opinion, the foundations and the circular wall would have been poured in reinforced concrete, the whole being protected by a thick layer of firebrick. On the bottom there would have been short pillars of refractory material, about one metre high, supporting a framework of refractory beams on which the corpses would rest. Firing by coke or coal would be effected through four (or more, depending on the diameter of the pit) openings spaced equidistantly around the circumference, in the form of trenches sloping from ground level to the floor of the "furnace-pit". It is very possible that Prüfer would have considered improving the efficiency of this infernal site by installing paid-air blowers, which would have enabled him to sell more of his own firm's products. Operation would have been cyclical: the hearth would be lit, corpses would be thrown on to the grid of refractory material, then, when the space between this and the floor of the pit had been choked with ash and clinker, it could have been necessary to let cool and clean it out completely before beginning a new cycle. The advantages would have been great incineration throughput for very little fuel consumption. The disadvantage: a fire visible day and night for kilometres around, terrible heat, the danger in case of sudden gases of wind, an unbearable smell and, above all, the work of cleaning out and recharging the furnace pit, would be exhausting if not mortally dangerous. The fact is that optimal operation would require that the pit should not cool too often between cycles, to enable the following cycle to start easily, which would mean that the prisoners cleaning out the pit and preparing it for the next firing would be forced to work in a very hot furnace. Even though this project never came to anything, its principle was not forgotten, and was put into practice in a primitive way in the open-air incineration ditches dug near Krematorium V and bunker 2/V. In the author's opinion, the future Krematorium VI would most probably have been installed in the high wood, 300 metres north of Krematorium V. The reader may be interested to know that for a long time one of the Bikernau guards used to tell visitors that Krematorium VI was slated to be electric. The victims would have stepped on a conveyor belt and been taken into the Krematorium where they would have been electrocuted and incinerated in a continuous production line operation. The location was to be in B III, which was an error of only 200 to 300 metres, since Krematorium VI would probably have been to the west of B III, in the woods. This poor guide was in fact only repeating what had been written by a Soviet journalist, Boris Polevoi, in "Pravda" on 2nd February 1945. Legends die hard.]

On Monday 1st February, a team of bricklayers, civilians and prisoners, working for Messrs Robert Kocher, completed the three-fueled collective chimney of Krematorium II (Documents 26 and 26a).

On Tuesday 2nd February, the newly-promoted SS Major Bischoff sent the Prüfer report to Hoess, to inform him of progress on the four Krematoriums (Document 28). This letter shows that Hoess did not participate in the visit to the work sites on the morning of Friday 29th January.

On 3rd February, Kirschchock sent a telegram to Topf, listing their fuel, Messing's, requirements for the air extraction systems for the whole of Krematorium II. At 4 15 pm, Topf senior engineer Schulz telephoned from Erfurt, saying that the requested material would be despatched without fail on Saturday 6th February.

On 5th February, Prüfer wrote to the Bauleitung regarding Messing's request, saying that he was having the blowers and ducting taken

from a consignment intended for another camp and confirming that they would be on a wagon that should arrive at Auschwitz on 6th February. Adding the Bauleitung to excuse this delay, he announced that two other foremen were shortly to arrive at Auschwitz, Holck (already on his way) and Seyffarth, and that a specialist fitter would later be arriving to help Messing to install the ventilation and air-extraction systems. On the subject of the "large circular incineration furnaces", for the supply of which the Bauleitung had [already] received an estimate, Prüfer gave them until 9th February to confirm the order, so that he could immediately start on the manufacture of the metal parts. Krematorium VI was never built for the simple reason that ALL Auschwitz had no need for it. With five Krematoriums and a total of 52 incineration modules, the cremation capacity was more than adequate with respect to its real needs, to the extent that in July 1943, just after the official handover of Krematorium III (the last to be completed), the three two-chamber furnaces (6 modules) of Krematorium I were taken out of service. The same day, Huta sent to Herr Stephan, their foreman at Krematorium II and III, a letter concerning the complaints made by the Bauleitung on 27th January. Huta concurred with him with respect to the non-use of frost protection agents during the pouring of the concrete roof of Leichenkeller 2, a practice the firm was against in all circumstances, but asked him to give his reasons for forgetting to dig the pit for the corpse lift of Krematorium II sufficiently deeply, while its dimensions were perfectly indicated on Bauleitung drawings 1173-1174 and 1301 and that of Krematorium II and already been correctly completed.

On 8th February, Messing, who had still not received the ventilation material required for Krematorium II, stopped work there, and in order not to waste time, fixed the anchors for the 8-muffle furnace of Krematorium IV, probably being engaged on this until and including 10th February.

On 10th February, work began on pouring the opening for and building the western access stairway to Leichenkeller 3 (future underground road) of Krematorium III, under the supervision of Huta foreman Kolbe. This was done in six days, being completed on 15th (IMO file BW 3035, pages 25 to 27). It is not known when this operation was carried out for Krematorium II. The only mention of its realization dates from 26th February, or eleven days AFTER that of Krematorium III was completed. This paradox cannot be explained without further documents. The same day, the Bauleitung telegraphed Topf to again confirm the orders for the "mechanical" installations (the 3-muffle furnaces and the ventilation systems) for Krematorium III and two copies: lifts (one for II and the other for III), as well as a provisional mechanical goods hotel (for Krematorium II), all this material being for immediate procurement or manufacture and to be delivered as soon as possible in order for Krematorium III to be ready for service on 10th April (Document 27).

On 11th February, the Bauleitung finally received, apparently five days late, the wagonload of material promised by the Topf engineers Schulz and Prüfer. On checking its contents, Messing found that the blower for Leichenkeller I and the air extractor fan motor for Leichenkeller 2, both for Kr II, were still missing. This time, things had gone too far, and a was a Jährling, a civilian Bauleitung employee, who asked Topf to explain themselves. He recalled that on 21st January Topf had announced that ALL the ventilation and air extraction equipment (for Krematorium II) would be despatched on 22nd, whereas

when this first wagon arrived there were so many parts missing that Messing was unable to continue his work. In response to a telephone enquiry, Prüfer had maintained that the material had in fact been sent. As nothing further arrived, the Bauleitung had, at Messing's request, sent a telegram to which Schulz had immediately replied by telephone, saying that the parts had not yet been manufactured but would be sent on 6th February. Prüfer had confirmed in writing on 5th February that the material should in fact be delivered the following day, adding that it had been taken from another consignment! On 10th February, the Bauleitung, still having received nothing, and called to Topf the confirmation of orders for equipment for Krematorium III. The arrival of the second wagon on 11th February with the material still incomplete had caused another telegram to be sent, and also a letter concerned essentially with the lack of the blower and its motor for Leichenkeller III (the future gas chamber), "for which the need is most urgent". However, Messing recommended work on installing the ventilation systems of Kr II and continued uninterrupted until 13th March. The Bauleitung SS, having triumphantly announced to their superior in Berlin, Kammler, that Krematorium II was completed, were very annoyed that it should still not be operational for lack of the ventilation essential for its operation. The fault lay with Messrs Topf, and in particular with Prüfer, who promised instant miracles to the Bauleitung, whereas in fact things dragged on and material failed to arrive. However, Prüfer's failure to keep his word was very largely due to his incompatibility between his genuine desire to rapidly manufacture and sell his firm's products and the ever-increasing shortages of all sorts of goods and materials in Germany, which frequently slowed or halted production. Still on 11th February, the Bauleitung had Jährling sent Topf the order for the delivery and installation of the waste incinerator for Krematorium III (this matter being not yet settled), for a price of 3,791 Reichs marks according to the Topf quote of 5th February.

On 12th February, Messrs Topf sent a first letter (Document 27) acknowledging receipt of the telegram of 10th concerning Krematorium II and the corpse lifts, then, in a second letter repeating the text of the telegram of 10th, it attached that of 11th concerning the fans and motors for Leichenkeller 1 and 2 of Krematorium II (Part II, Chapter 6). It announced that Prüfer would arrive at Auschwitz in the afternoon of 15th February, and the despatch of a replacement motor for Leichenkeller 2. The same day, the consignment note for the shipment of the missing parts was drawn up, and the Bauleitung received on 14th February. Through the intermediary of Pollok, Bischoff informed Kammler at the SS-WVHA in Berlin of the difficulties encountered with Topf, thus putting the blame for the delay in the coming into service of Krematorium II onto this firm. In addition, still through Pollok, Bischoff informed Camp Commandant Hoess of the project for Krematorium VI, stemming from the experience gained with open-air incineration ditches. The Bauleitung envisaged a workforce of 350 prisoners for its construction, almost as many as were employed on the construction of the four new Krematoriums. This project was, of course, never implemented because the additional cremation capacity was not required.

On 17th February, the Bauleitung Drawing Office produced a general plan of the Bikernau POW camp, drawing 1991, showing the three construction stages in their final form (total capacity of approximately 100,000 prisoners) and equipped, for the first time on any

drawing with FOUR KREMATORIEN (labelled 2, 3, 4 and 5), giving one incineration mill for 2,200 prisoners, a ratio that does not appear really criminal (for purposes of comparison, KL Lublin- Majdanek, with an average population ranging from 15,000 to 20,000 prisoners, had a crematorium with five muffle, giving a ratio of 1 muffle for 3,000 to 4,000 people), but it was criminal if one considers the state of progress in the building of prisoners' accommodation barracks with that of the Krematorien. If the SS had had them built as and when the construction stages were completed, it might have been possible to believe that these buildings were 'normal', serving only to cremate the dead among a growing population, but as they had all been planned at the same time (all four in July/August 1942), it is obvious that this was not for health reasons but for some quite different purpose. In addition to the two sets of railway tracks appearing on earlier drawings, there was now a third, with a broad space between it and the other two, like a particularly wide station platform. This was to be the 'orange' where the selection was made between those Jews fit for work and those not (Document 24). This drawing also shows the precise state of the buildings at Bakenau planned, under construction or completed.

On 18th February, Kirschneck informed Messrs Industrie Baw AG, the firm responsible for the roof of Krematorium III, of an extension of 2 metres in the southern wing housing the waste incinerator, and inviting them to send a quotation for the additional work.

On 20th February, Kirschneck informed the camp labour office that on 18th, of 200 prisoners sent to the construction sites of Krematorium II (and III), only 40 were 'strong' (capable of work) and on 19th, still out of 200, only 80. Pollak signed this letter in Birschhoff's stead.

On 22nd February, the Bauleitung Drawing Office drew complementary sheet 2136 for Krematorium III (BW 30a) with a floor elevation, a side elevation and a plan of the ground floor. The principal modification was in the length of the annex wing, which was 12 metres for Krematorium II but became 14 for Krematorium III.

On 24th and 25th February, Messing installed the air extractor fan in Leichenkeller 1 (the infirmary gas chamber).

On 26th February, on a hand-written note, countersigned by Kirschneck, concerning the terra-cotta pipes for the drainage of Krematorium II and the supply of doors and windows for Krematorium III, there was mention of the entrance to the future undressing room of Krematorium II (BW 30, Eingang Keller 2), accompanied by a rough sketch showing the western access stairway (Document 29). This is the first trace of this stairway, which could be used only by living people (assuming drawing 2003 was totally respected), which did not appear on the initial drawings but did on the inventory drawing, 2197 (see annex). At 6.20 pm, SS Second Lieutenant Kirschneck (his name having been written on a copy by Jähring during filing) sent to Topf a telegram requesting the immediate despatch of TERN GAS DETECTORS for BW 30, Le. Krematorium II (PMD file BW 30/34, page 48, presented in Part II Chapter 6 'The ventilation systems of Krematorium II and III' and Chapter 8 'Criminal traces'). This telegram on its own established that Messrs Topf, and in particular their representative at Auschwitz, Prüfer, had compromised themselves up to the neck in installing a gas chamber in Krematorium II. Since Topf's production consisted essentially of brewery equipment (cauldrons, vats, etc), metal conduits and containers (ventilation ducting, grain

Document 26
(PMD org. no. 2095/08)



Document 26a
(PMD org. no. 2095/08)



(Example of the construction of a collective chimney with three (or four) floors, typical of the construction of the gang of bricklayers working on it: two civilians, two prisoners and an SS guard (in actual fact, there was one SS man but no more workers, where 100 to 150 civilians and prisoners would be working). This gang is very probably working for Messrs Robert Kuehler of Myslowitz, a firm specialized in the construction of chimneys, and here building that of the electric power/ District heating plants located several hundred metres west of the Stammlager at main camp.

ВН 30/27

56

НАШЕ ЗАКЛЮЧЕНИЕ
В.А. ТУПЧЕВ

Одесса, 12 февраля 1943 года

Президенту Украинского Конгресса
г. Львов
О. В. В. В. В.

Название: Кременаториум 2 и 3 К.Г.Л.

«Кременаториум» — название одной из камер кремации
10 февраля 1943 года
В.А. Тупчев, инженер-механик
на базе двух трехъярусных крематориумов, расположенных в
здании, служившем до войны для хранения оружия и боеприпасов
для войск Украины. Там же находилось и оборудование для
ремонта танков и бронетехники. В настоящее время
здание является объектом охраны памятника архитектуры
и искусства, что не позволяет использовать его для
других целей. В связи с этим, предлагается
создать в этом здании крематориум.

В.А. Тупчев

ВЕР 40:

Надпись: *Тупчев*

Document 21
[PACO file 8A 1027, page 24]

Translation:

COPY / ORDER /

J A TOPF & SONS

Erfurt, 12th February 1943

SS and Police Central Construction Management
Oswiecim

CONCERNING: Krematorien 2 and 3, POW camp

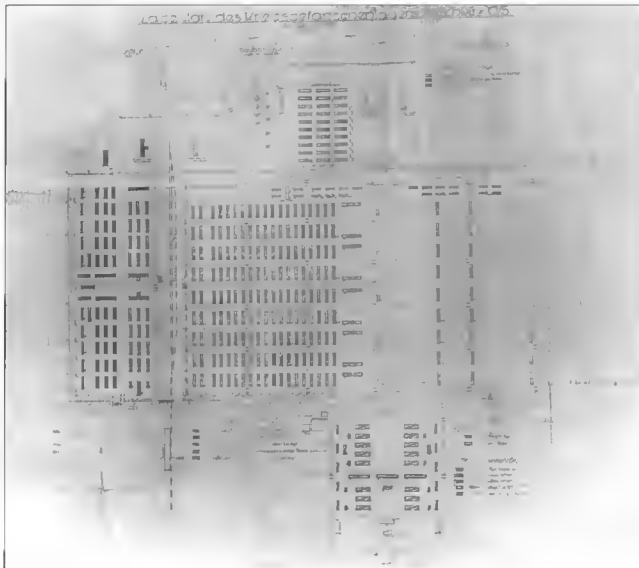
We acknowledge receipt of your telegram of 10th February reading as follows:

We once again confirm receipt of your order for five triple muffle furnaces, including two electric lifts for the corpses and one provisional hoist for corpses. Also the order for a practical device for charging coal and a device for transporting ash. You are to deliver the whole installation for Krematorium 3. We expect you to take the necessary steps to immediately despatch all machines and parts. The complete installation must come into service on 10th April 1943.

J A TOPF & SONS

[certified a true copy]
Captain / KUNIN /

[Not having a photograph of the original, the author presents here the Russian translation of the document. However, as the telegram concerned was twice transcribed in almost identical terms (on 11th February in a Baulenung letter to Topf and on 12th in the reply), it is possible to make a comparison between the two German originals and the Russian translation. This last is a somewhat hatched job, with a real error in the third line, where «we confirm our order» becomes «we confirm [excerpt of] your order», to say nothing of the transformation of the Roman numerals: II and III into 2 and 3 and the word «Anlage K III» into «Krematorium 3». This letter is presented in Russian in order to demonstrate the difficulty, if not impossibility, of working with such translations, probably made in haste and in the heat of the moment in 1943, using unqualified translators taken from among the Soviet troops who liberated the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp. The German texts and the English translations are to be found Part II, Chapter 6, «The ventilation systems of Krematorien II and III».]



Document 38

(PMO file BW 2/14 reg. no 21135/10)

Situation plan of the Auschwitz POW camp (Birkenau)

Scale 1:2000

Drawing 1991, drawn by prisoner 15562 on 17th February 1943

Auschwitz, am 6.7.43

FAKTSCHENBUCH W. WEISSBERG
ARCHIVUM

BW 30/25

84365/43/20/1a

Betr.: Flak Auschwitz, Krem. II und III KGL, BW 30 u. 30 e
Bemags Fert. Rohrleitung vom 22.7.43 D.IV. Prf.
Anlge: - - -

Firma
T e p f u n d S o h n e
K r e m l a n d

Auf Grund Ihres Vorschlages erklärt sich die Identitätsstelle einverstanden, dass der Keller I mit der Abfuhr aus dem Rahmen der 3 Baugrubenanlagen vergewahrt wird. Die Vorförderung und der Einbau der hierfür benötigten Rohrleitungen und der Druckluftgebläse muss schnellstens erfolgen. Wie Sie in o.g. Rohrleit. angeben, sollte die Ausführung noch in dieser Woche geschehen. Um Vergabe eines spezifischen Kostenangebotes 3-fach für Lieferung und Einbau wird gebeten.

Daneben wird um Einreichung eines Baugrubenangebotes für die Umänderung der Belüftungsanlage für den Amalgamschmelzraum gebeten.

Nach Eingang dieser Angebote wird Ihnen schriftlich Auftrag erteilt.

Der Leiter der Zentralverwaltung
der Waffen- und Polizeianstalten
Auschwitz

1. - Bauabteilung 27

Verteiler:
1 Baul. KL o. Landw.
2 Registr. KGL BW 30 u. 30 e
1 Sachbearb.

Document 20
[PMS for BW 30/25, page 7]

Translation:

-[manuscript] Krema II and III

Correspondence register no. 24365/43/1a/1m

Auschwitz, 6/3/43

Subject: KL Auschwitz Krematorien II and III POW camp, BW 30 and 30a
Reference: Your letter of 22/2/43 D.IV Prf
Enclosure:

Topf & Sons
Erfurt

In accordance with your suggestion, the service agrees that cellar I should be preheated with the air coming from the rooms of the 3 forced draught installations. The supply and installation of the ductwork and blowers necessary to this end are to be effected as soon as possible. As you point out in your above-mentioned letter, execution should commence this week. We would ask you to send in triplicate detailed quote for supply and installation.

At the same time, we would ask you to send an additional quotation for the modification of the air extraction installation in the undressing room.

After receipt of these quotations we shall send a written order

Head of the Auschwitz Waffen SS and Police
Central Construction Management

[Bischoff's initials]
SS Major [Höring's initials]

Distribution:

- 1 KL and Agriculture Building
- 2 Files KGL BW 30 and 30a
- 1 Official in charge

On 8th and 9th March, Messing continued working 8 hours a day on the air extraction system of Leichenkeller 2, which he designated «Auskleidekeller» (undressing cellar).

On 10th March, Messing worked for SIXTEEN HOURS straight, tending the ventilation and air extraction systems of Leichenkeller 1 of Krematorium II. These tests were intended to determine fast the effectiveness of the ventilation, then the waiting time necessary between the introduction of the toxic gas and the opening of the gas-tight door. The ventilation system of Leichenkeller 1 had initially been designed for a morgue, with the fresh air entering near the ceiling and the cold underbath air being drawn out near the floor. Its use as a gas chamber really required the reverse situation, with fresh air coming in near the floor and warm air saturated with hydrocyanic gas being drawn out near the ceiling. But SS and Prüfer chose to maintain the original «morgue» ventilation system in the gas chamber, hoping that it would be efficient enough. The lamps ten gas detectors, ordered through Topf, were used to check this point, and probably also to check the gas-tightness of the door sealing. It would appear that by the evening it was established that the ventilation was almost satisfactory, and that 20 to 30 minutes appeared sufficient to bring the HCN concentration down to a reasonable level so that the door could be opened and the future (corps-) extraction commences could start its work at reasonable safety. In the author's opinion, it was still necessary to make some adjustments and modifications before the official result was achieved.

On 11th March, principal engineer Schlez (written Schnitz) obtained from Buschoff a certificate of presence at Auschwitz for his 12th March, having had to remain on site, in accordance with the contract, for the installation of the ventilation and air extraction systems of Leichenkeller 1 of Krematorium II. This certificate states that the ventilation of the gas chambers was to come into service in the evening of 12th March. In fact it was not ready until the following evening. The same day, Jähring sent the Camp Kovernandant Administration three copies of the «Betriebsanweisung» (Operating instructions) for the 3-muffle furnaces of Krematorium II (Dossiers 31) supplied by Messer Topf and being no different from those provided for the third double-muffle furnace (known as the «new furnace» of Kr II). Two copies were displayed in the furnace room (one of them being «operational» by Dr Miklos Nyssli in November 1944) and the other was filed.

On 12th March, Messing was again at work on the ventilation of the «undressing cell» (Leichenkeller 2) of Krematorium II, probably waiting for parts to be manufactured locally or the completion of other work before finishing off the ventilation system of Leichenkeller 1. The same day, Jähring calculated the theoretical coke consumption to allow for the four Krematoriums and obtained a figure of 8,264 kg for 12 hours of operation (it being implied that the furnaces would operate 12 hours a day) (Dossiers 31). His calculation contained TWO ERRORS [1], the first concerning the consumption of Krematorium IV and V, and the second an error in addition (a mistake of 800 kg - he should have obtained a total of 7,464, not 8,264). Buschoff initiated the incorrect result without question. The figures were considered to be maximum consumption («Spitzleistungen/peak production»). Jähring admitted he could not determine annual consumption because it was not known how many hours a day the furnaces would be working.

[The correct theoretical consumption was calculated by Jähring on 17th March (Dossiers 31), giving a figure of 7,340 kg of coke for the four Krematoriums in 12 hours of activity PER DAY. Very proud of himself for having achieved a «good» result, Jähring signed it and added his status «Z.A. Ing./Civilian employee, Engineer» a detail that should have been omitted considering his antiseptical abilities? The result of 12th March, instead of being cancelled and destroyed, was filed with that of 17th, on which Kirschneck nevertheless wrote «dieser Vermerk ist richtig/this note is correct». While it might be thought that these calculations were the result of incompetence and errors, that is not the case and the theoretical result, apparently very approximate, turns out quite accurate when compared with another PMO file.

PMO microfilm 12,012 contains the coke delivery notes for the Krematoriums (without distinguishing between them) from 16th February 1942 to 25th October 1943, a period in which Krematorium I was the only one in operation for the first thirteen months, followed by the completion and bringing into service between 22nd March and 25th June 1943 of the four Birkenau Krematoriums and the abandonment of the «old Krematorium» at the Stammlager. The same two hundred and forty delivery notes preserved make it possible to determine coke requirements month by month:

1942	1943
Feb 22 tonnes (from 16th only)	Jan 23 tonnes
Mar 39	Feb 40
Apr 39	Mar 144.5
May 32	Apr 60
Jun 29.5	May 95
Jul 16.5	Jun 61
Aug 31.5	Jul 71
Sep 52	Aug 71
Oct 15	Sep 61
Nov 17	Oct 82
Dec 39	

Diverging February 1942 (incomplete data) and stopping at the end of February 1943, we can determine the average monthly coke consumption of Krematorium I over a twelve-month period, 31.1 tonnes. As Krematorium I had 3 double-muffle furnaces, one muffle required approximately 5.2 tonnes of coke per muffle. The note of 17th March 43 establishes a theoretical daily consumption of 17.84 tonnes for the four new Krematoriums with a total of 46 tonnes, which also gives a monthly consumption of 5.2 tonnes of coke per muffle. These two concordant figures, coming from different sources, show that the theoretically calculated figures of the note of 17th March can be considered valid and that in PMO microfilm 12,012 the delivery notes for the supply of coke to Krematorium I (Dossiers 34) are complete.

As from March 1943, the delivery notes (Dossiers 34 and 36) indicate only total consumption, without any breakdown between the different Krematoriums. Disregarding March 1943, when Krematorium I was probably still working and large quantities of coke were used in drying out and warming through the Birkenau furnaces, then assuming for the sake of argument that all the Birkenau Krematoriums were operational at the beginning of April, then the overall consumption was 497 tonnes of coke in seven months (April to October) and with a monthly consumption of 5.2 tonnes per muffle, then the total coke

Document 35

28.03.43 24 737/43/24/Ln

am 27.3.43

Aktiververmerk

Betr.: Schätzung des Kohleverbrauches für Krematorium II KOL
nach Angaben der Fu. Topf u. (Name) (Name der Fu.)
vom 13.3.43.

30 Feuerungen = 30 kg Kohle

12 Stk. = 12 * 30 = 4 kg Kohle 2 Krematoriums zusammen 8 kg Kohle

Bei Normalbetrieb verändert sich diese Menge so wesentlich, sodass

nicht 2/3 der Menge gerechnet werden kann. Für Krematorium II u.

III zusammen Verbrauch in 12 Stunden = 30 kg * 12 = 360 kg * 2 = 720 kg

Krematorium IV u. V

mit je 4 Feuerungen = 8 Feuerungen zusammen =

12 Stk. * 8 = 96 kg * 2 = 192 kg in 12 Stunden (1 Tagebetrag)

Krematorium II = 8 kg Kohle

III = 8 kg Kohle

IV = 1 kg Kohle

V = 1 kg Kohle

zus. = 7 kg Kohle in 12 Stk. (1 Tagebetrag)

Wie mind. Spitzleistungen! Ein Jahresbedarf lässt sich nicht angeben, da vorher nicht bekannt ist, wieviel Stunden bzw. Tage geheizt werden muss.

Verleumdung
2 Verleumdung
2 Sachverständigen
1 Sachverständiger
1 Sachverständiger
1 Sachverständiger

Document 33: [Dossier P.M.O. BW 30/34, page 54]

Document 34: [6 tonnes de coke le 16.03.42]

60x
120/12

Bescheinigung.

16.-
.....To, KOKS - KOHLE - gemischt für
Abteilung - Kreis Nr. 11
gefahren am 16.3.42 durch Rollwagen Nr. 11...

Capo Rollwagen
Nat. 5471

Oben angegebene Menge KOKS - KOHLE - ist auszugeben.

Capo 4-Unterkunftskammer

ABTEILUNG 11
ABTEILUNG 11
ABTEILUNG 11

N.J.N. 120/12

Document 34

Document 34

Document 36:

[16 tonnes de coke le 30.04.43]

Nr. 931

Bescheinigung.

1 To Kohle 15 To Koks To Briquets
für Abt. - Haus Nr. 11
geliefert am 30. April 194...

Capo
4-Unterkunftskammer

Unterschrift
des Empfängers

GT. 12. 4. 43

Am. 1. 4. 43

N.J.N. 120/12

Nr. 298

Bescheinigung.

4 To Koks - Kohle gemischt für Abt. - Haus

Nr. 11

geliefert am 11. 3 194?

durch Rollwagen Nr. 1

Capo Rollwagen

Nat. 5471

Oben angegebene Menge Koks - Kohle ist auszugeben.

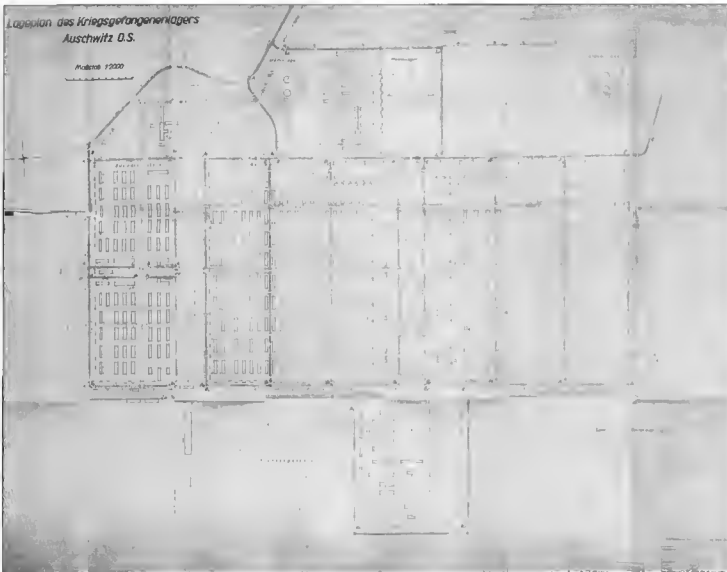
Capo 4-Unterkunftskammer

Bemerkungen.

Unterschrift des Empfängers

Document 35:

[4 tonnes de coke le 11.03.43]



Document 37

(PMO neg. no. 71004)

Situation plan of the POW camp Auschwitz Upper Silesia (Buchenwald)
Scale 1:2000

Drawing 2216

Drawn by prisoner 538

and checked by Dejen and Janich on 20/3/43

Approved by Buchelt on 1/4/43

There are several prints of this plan, which was used by the Soviet Commission in 1945 to locate the Birkenau crematorium.

One of these prints, classified by the Soviet Commission as the 1st drawing, is preserved in the PMO Archives, now carried back and classified under neg. no. 20583.

The Soviet Commission used essentially only EIGHT misleading drawings of the Birkenau crematorium, seven concerning crematorium II and IV and an overall plan of the camp, that reproduced here.

The Commission attributed the numbers 1 to 8 as follows:

1. Drawing 923 of 15/1/42 (Ks II)
2. Drawing 934 of 15/1/42 (Ks II)
3. Drawing 1173-1174 of 15/1/42 (Ks II)
4. Drawing 932 of 23/1/42 (Ks II)
5. Drawing 1311 of 14/1/42 (Ks II)
6. Drawing 1678 of 14/1/42 (Ks IV)
7. Drawing 2070 of 11/1/43 (Ks IV)
8. Drawing 2216 of 20/3/43 (Overall plan)

The wooden box installed in the north yard of crematorium II served as an underground room until 30th March 1943, and was dismantled.

received by the four Krematorien WAS ONLY SLIGHTLY MORE THAN THAT REQUIRED FOR 14 MUFFLES OUT OF 46 [including March 1943, the result changes very little, being slightly over 15 muffles]. From April to October 1943 Krematorium II, III, IV and V worked the equivalent of only TWO MONTHS at full capacity (out of seven). Admittedly, they incinerated the corpses of between 165,000 and 215,000 victims during that time, but it is apparent from the files that Birkenau was OVER-equipped with cremation capacity, because until the end of October 1943 they were used to ONLY A QUARTER OR A THIRD OF THEIR MAXIMUM CAPACITY [which means that the 15 incineration muffles of JUST ONE installation of the Krematorium III/II type or the 16 muffles of Krematorium IV AND V would have simply sufficed for the incineration of the corpses from the extermination of the Jews and that two Krematorien II, III and IV, or three Krematorien III, IV and V were superfluous in requirements]. This over supply of cremation capacity is confirmed by Camp Commandant Höss in his autobiography [Commandant of Auschwitz], Pan Books 1961, p. 216]:

"Number II [IV] failed completely after a short time and later ceased to be used altogether. Number IV [IV] had to be repaired quite often, since after its fire had been going for from four to six weeks, the ovens or the chimneys burnt out. The gassed bodies were mostly burnt in pits behind crematorium IV [IV] - [in fact] was the situation only in the summer of 1944 during the extermination of the Hungarian Jews."

It should be noted that before May 1944 the SS made no attempt to repair Krematorien IV and V, considering (and the coke consumption figures prove it) that ON THEIR OWN the 30 muffles of Krematorium II and III (6 of Kt I finally having been withdrawn from service) were AMPLY SUFFICIENT for "routine" extermination. The only major repair undertaken was that of the Krematorium II chimney, in May to July 1943, as at this time the SS could not let their cremation capacity (and towards zero, in the author's opinion, the excess cremation capacity at Birkenau, which remained a constant feature even during the extermination of the Hungarians, was due to two factors: first, the absolute panic that seized the SS in July/August 1942 when they were confronted with a raging typhus epidemic and were in a situation where they had to combat this by every possible means and at the same time urgently find an "industrial" technique for large-scale extermination; second, the influence of Topf engineer Prüfer, a born fighter who now had to profit from the SS panic and appear as their saviour, selling them all he could and taking a profit for himself).

On Saturday 13th March, after a working day of FOURTEEN HOURS during which Messing put the finishing touches to the job, the ventilation and air extraction systems of Krematorium II Leichenkeller I WERE FINALLY DECLARED "FIT FOR SERVICE".

ON SUNDAY 14TH MARCH, Messing continued installing the ventilation of Leichenkeller 2, which he called "Anschleuderhof III". In the EVENING, ABOUT 1,500 JEWS FROM THE CRACOW GHETTO WERE THE FIRST VICTIMS TO BE GASED IN KREMATORIUM II. They did not undress in Leichenkeller 2, still clothed with tools and ventilation components, but in a stable-type hut temporarily erected in the north yard of the Krematorium [Documents 39].

On 17th March, Jähring again calculated the theoretical daily coke consumption of the four Birkenau Krematorien, this time without any errors: 7.84 tonnes for 12 hours (one day of operation) [Documents 38].

In view of the approaching date for the official handover of Krematorium II, the Bauleitung Drawing Office produced an inventory drawing on 19th March, drawing 2197, to be attached to the deed of transfer. Drawing 2197 is a large extent copied drawings 932, 933, 934, 936 [937, 938], 940, 1173-1174 and 1311, bringing them all together and modifying them according to the changes since made (but not completely). Three versions of 2197 were produced, with the differences concerning only the «Kellergrundriss/Basement plan» [see these drawings in annex]. The most complete is 2197/III[c], showing the building's drainage (inspired by 1300) and lighting systems. This drawing is essential for understanding the inventories, attached to the deed of transfer, describing the equipment installed on each floor of Krematorium II, and it even makes it possible to correct an error on one of them inventories. One of the two commissions of enquiry (probably the Polish Commission) had 2197 redrafted after the war, because it is barely legible [Documents 38]. On the same day, the author of the site supervisor at Auschwitz, Herr Stephan, to find out which of his workers had worked on the night shifts instituted to complete Krematorium II, and for how long, so that this nightwork could be invoked to the Bauleitung, who had ordered it. On 19th March the Bauleitung drew up the «Übergabeverhandlung/Deed of transfer» for the handover of Krematorium IV to the KL Auschwitz Administration. Accepted on 22nd March, Krematorium IV was officially the first Birkenau Krematorium to come into «action» (built in five months and completed less than seven months after being designed). In actual fact, the furnaces of Krematorium II had been operational since the beginning of March and the gas chamber since the 14th.

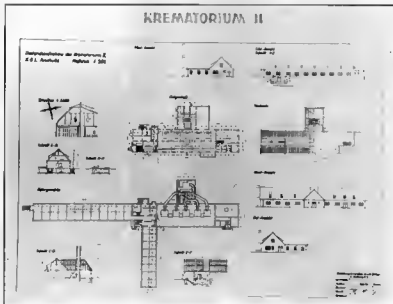
On 24th March, the engineers Prüfer and Schütz, summoned by the Bauleitung, arrived at Auschwitz to find a solution to the problems encountered in the operation of Krematorium II during the first gassings (1,500 Jews from Cracow) on the 14th and 2,200 from Salenko on 20th). A summary record of this meeting, which lasted two days, was compiled by Kirschneck on 25th [Documents 39]. There was bad news for Topf: the famous forced draught installations, which had done nothing but cause problems, were to be dismantled. This decision meant that the installations planned for Krematorium III were to be abandoned and the planned preheating of Leichenkeller I was no longer possible. Also, a more substantial blower casing, in cast iron, was to replace the wooden one in place, probably to prevent leakage. Finally, the corpse chugging trolley (of the type used in Krematorium I) was to be abandoned in favour of the easier-to-use «Leichenzug für Leichen» [Corpse stretcher for boards]. As a result the rails running along the furnace and carrying the tumblers were removed and replaced by a concrete trough which was kept full of water to make it easier to drag the corpses from the left to the furnaces. The rails in front of the furnaces, however, were left in place even though now redundant [Documents 40, 41, 42 and 43]. During Prüfer and Schütz's stay at the camp, almost 2,000 Jews from the Salenko ghetto were gassed on 24th and a further 1,200 on 25th. The two engineers must have witnessed this, in view of their degree of involvement in the homicidal installations of Krematorium II. [Documents 39, the summary record of the meeting of 25th March 1943, is a «crucial trace» concerning the existence of homicidal gas chambers.]

On 29th March, Jähring, on behalf of the Bauleitung, confirmed to Topf by letter that the wooden case or boning of the two air extractor fans (for the Leichenkeller I of Krematorium II and III) were to be replaced by a cast iron model. From 29th to 31st March, Messing was completing the installation of the dressing room ventilation system, which became operational on 31st.

On 30th March, Kirschneck wrote a brief note to the effect that SS Second Lieutenant Eggeling (an agricultural engineer) was to be responsible for all water supply and drainage work for Krematorium II.

[The drainage system of Krematorium II] was simplified as compared with that of Krematorium I. For example, the Kt II gas chamber [Leichenkeller II] sewer manhole was a trench-built with an internal iron ladder, whereas in Kt III it was simply a few sections of low-cost concrete pipe [Documents 44, 45, 46, 47 and 48]. In the author's opinion, this type of simplification of construction, based on the experience of building Krematorium II, was used wherever possible in Krematorium III, which probably explains its lower overall cost, 554,550 RM for Kt III, as against probably 646,000 RM for Kt II.]

On 31st March, KREMATORIUM II WAS OFFICIALLY ACCEPTED BY THE CAMP ADMINISTRATION.



Document 38

[When a Krematorium was handed over to the camp administration, the Bauleitung compiled a set of documents comprising:

- The deed of transfer («Übergabeverhandlung»)
- A description of the building («Gebäudebeschreibung») [this was in fact on the verso of the above, A and B being a single sheet]
- An inventory drawing («Bestandsaufnahme») of the building on a scale of 1:200 (Kt II and III) or 1:100 (Kt IV and V).
- Three inventories (basement, ground floor, roof space) indicating the nature and number of electrical, sanitary or other installations on each floor (for Kt II and III) (3 sheets) or on inventory (ground floor) for Kt IV and V (1 sheet).
- The construction contract («Baubauvertrag») with an explanatory report («Erläuterungsbericht») (2 sheets).
- A summary of the expenses incurred and the total cost of the building («Kostenvergleich») (2 sheets).

In theory, such a file should have been handed over each time one of the Krematorien was accepted, making a total of 32 documents and drawings. However, only 20 documents are known at present:

Krematorium II: A, B, C, D (E and F missing. C is drawing 2197).
Krematorium III: A, D, E, F (B and C missing. Probably no specific drawing).
Krematorium IV: A, C, D, E, F (B missing. C is drawing 2036).
Krematorium V: [All documents missing. Probably no specific drawing].

The known documents are preserved in PMO file BW 3043.)



Document 40



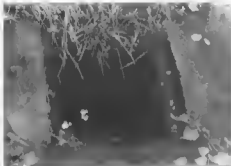
Document 43



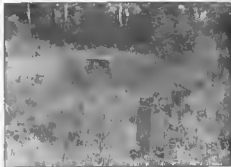
Document 46



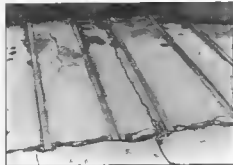
Document 44



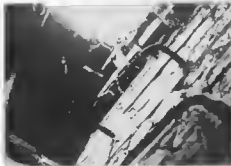
Document 44



Document 47



Document 42



Document 45



Document 48

Documents 40 and 41

[P.M.O. reg. nos 21334/121 (above) and 21334/120 (below)]

"Cuffs (in fact corpses) charging trolleys found in storage at the liberation of the camp. While photographs were being taken, a former prisoner lay on the charging slide at front of a crematorium to show how it was used. It is difficult to imagine that such a trolley would enable 3 to 7 corpses at a time to be charged the shaft of a Tegel furnace as testified by certain former Sonderkommando members after the war (one went as far as to say 12). The main-camp capacity was more like 3 corpses, one - one good handle - but subject to maintenance conditions.

Document 42

[Photo by the author]

Inside ruins of Krematorium II furnace room, view of the three sets of rails, set in the floor at front of furnace 1, on which the corpse charging trolley was at rest. Though redundant after the charging method was changed, these rails were not removed.

Document 43

[Sketch by David Olver]

View of the furnace room of Krematorium III, looking east-west, drawn by David Olver after his return from deportation. The sketch shows the simplified charging method, using the corpse stretchers. The absence of the rails in front of the furnaces in Olver's sketch is significant, since they served no purpose, his visual memory did not mislead him. The shallow trough of water along which the stretchers were dragged from the left at the end of the room, is on the right.

Document 44

[Photo by the author]

Entrance to the Leichenkeller 1 (gas chamber) sewer runabout, situated on the outside, against the corner of the western wall. The top ring of the metal ladder can be seen.

Document 45

[Photo by the author]

View of the inside of the metal ladder of document 44, with an access ladder. On the left is the rail running from the sewer water shop each to its control wheel above ground. The location can be seen on Bauleitung drawing 1300 of 1940/42.

Document 46

[Photo by the author]

Concrete cover with metal handle, weighing about 20 kg, originally made for the staircase of documents 44 and 45, now used by the crematorium of an opening on the roof of Leichenkeller 1 (the gas chamber) of Krematorium II, through which Zyklon B was poured.

Document 47

[Photo by the author]

General view looking roughly south, north, of the ruins of the Krematorium III gas chamber, very overgrown with vegetation. In the centre the line supporting pillars are still upright. The base of the sewer staircase is on the left, against the west wall, almost considerably above the ground.

Document 48

[Photo by the author]

Close up view of the staircase of documents 47, made up of 4 to 6 sections of concrete pipes and with a concrete lid in two places (only one of which remains). This type of staircase has no built-in access ladder. In the background is one of the pillars that supported the roof of the Krematorium III gas chamber.

Document 49

33. 72 7

**Zentralbeurteilung der Waffen-H
und Polizei**
Auschwitz - O/S Auschwitz, den 31. März 1943

Übergebungsverhandlung.

Zentralbeurteilung der Waffen-H und Polizei Auschwitz
Vertreten durch:
Der von der Zentralbeurteilung der Waffen-H und Polizei Auschwitz errichtete - Anordnungsstelle - Lagerbau - Bauwerk "P. K.O.L. 30 Krematorium II, wurde heute an die Kommandantur (Unterkunftsverwaltung) des K.L. Auschwitz übergeben.

Nachrichtlich: siehe Rückseite
Übertrugene aufgeführte Räume und die in der Anlage 1 gesondert aufgeführten Einrichtungen sind ordnungsgemäß von der Zentralbeurteilung der Waffen-H und Polizei Auschwitz übergeben und von der Kommandantur (Unterkunftsverwaltung) des K.L. Auschwitz übernommen worden.
Die Unterkunftsverwaltung hat nachfolgende Wünsche geäußert:

Masse Arbeiten werden auf dem schnellsten Wege fertiggestellt.
Übergebungsverhandlungen geschloßen und gefertigt:
Auschwitz, den 31. März 1943
Der Übergebende: Derübernehmende:
Zentralbeurteilung der Waffen-H und Kommandantur K.L. Auschwitz O/S
Polizei
O/S
[Signaturen]

Anlagen:
1. Errichtung der Einrichtungsgenstände
1. Satz Bergpläne ("Bergbau 1:200)
1. Verzeichnis über sämtliche an der Einrichtung beteiligten Personen mit Angaben der Hufe- und Körpermaße.
1. Bestätigung über Schornsteinabnahme

Bei Ausführung der Arbeiten in Einregie mit Häftlingen kommt eine Haft- und Garantierzeit nicht zur Anwendung.
Die Arbeiter zu den Teilen von P. K.O.L. "HUK", Teile von Häftlingen auszuführt.
Dachstuhl v. Industriebau A.G. Bielefeld, Maschinen u. Wunde
Ofenanlagen v. P. Topf u. Söhne, Erfurt.
2 Jahre Garantierzeit.

Document 49: [Ossier P.M.O. BW 30/43, page 9]

on 25.5.1943

A B C D E F G H I J K

PROHIBITION

BLW 30/25

Bez.: Neues der belg. Vertreter der Firma Topi u. Chausseur, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578,

Bewertung: Photographie der Herbeste lung zwecks Erhebung von Miasma
- Fundorten II u. III in KOL anzuheben

Ort u. Zeit: Zentralverwaltung der Waffen- und Pol. Maschinen,
am 24.3. und 25.3.1943.

Figure 3-11-11a

[illegible]

EXERCISE III

Auf Grund der Erfahrung in Krematorium II werden die vor-
geschrittenen und anzuwendenden Sauganlagen nicht zum Ein-
bau, wenn sich von der 2. Aufl. der 1. Aufl. ergibt, dass
dieselben für die bauliche Ausführung.

Verteiler:
1 Pa. Topf
1 Handh. Feu
2 Handkiss
1 Registr.
KGL Nr 30

Document 39
APMO Site #78, AD-25, page 81

Translation:

Illegible BW 30 and 30a

Correspondence register no 45269/Ka/Lm

Anschwellz. 25/3/43

Summary record

Subject: Visit by two representatives of Messrs Topf & Sons, Erfurt
Chief Engineers Prüfer and Schütz

Reference: Telephoned summons with a view to eliminating the faults in
Krematorium II and III at Auschwitz POW Camp (Birkenau)

Place and Date	Auschwitz Waffen SS and Police Central Construction Management 24/3 and 25/3/1943
----------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Kernals of corn 11

Since the three forced draft installations have not even satisfaction in any respect, and even suffered damage after the first real utilization because of too high temperatures, they are to be dismantled at the expense of Messrs Topf & Sons and taken back by that firm. The ZBL [Zentral Bauleitung] counts on the fact that it will suffer no loss of material and that the corresponding quantity of iron will be returned to it. This credit thus concerns the installation of the three forced draft furnaces. The electric motor (each of 10 HP) which was supplied and started provided they have not been damaged by the high temperatures.

The hot air supply installation for Leichenkeiler I [I] must be eliminated because of this modification, and the materials will be stored by the ZBL [in the Banhof]. In place of the wooden blower for the air extraction installation of Leichenkeiler I [I], a cast iron blower has been chosen. The blower will assume the additional cost of the blower housing.

The two roller conveyors for the waste material will be replaced by two [1] chutes. The chute for the slag will be replaced by a roller conveyor. The roller will be stored by the ZBL. Installation of the Damsy stands, heat transfer platform, will be effected by a Topf trolley.

Kremasovic III

In view of the experience with Krematorium II, the forced draught installations planned and delivered will not be installed, but will be stored by the ZBL. (For use in the district heating plant).

Initiated by Zischoff!

(signed) Kurt Pfeifer

Distribution.

- 1 Messrs Topf
- 1 Machine store
- 2 Files
- 1 Reissue POW camp BW 30

The description of the building [Document 58] associated with the deed of transfer for Krematorium II [Document 49] shows that Leichenkeller I was fitted with a «GASDICHTER TÜR/GAS-TICHTER DOOR» [Document 51], and the basement inventory [Document 52] also lists 4 «DRAHTNETZEINSCHIEBVRRICHTUNGEN/WIRE MESH INTRODUCTION DEVICES» with 4 «HOLZBLENDEN/WOODEN COVERS» [incorrectly attributed by a Bauleitung clerk to Leichenkeller 2. See the explanation in Part II, Chapter 8.] These, apparently «neutral» terms, designated, with no possible shadow of a doubt, the heavy mesh curtains into which the Zyklon-B was poured in the form of pellets, the top of which, outside the roof, were closed by wooden covers. This proves formally that Leichenkeller 1 of Krematorium II was fitted out as A GAS CHAMBER USING ZYKLON-B. It is not possible with these documents alone to prove that it was «homocidal». But, Messing's designation of Leichenkeller 2 as the UNPRESSING CELLAR, together with the fact that in the ceiling of Leichenkeller 1 about twenty emplacements for dummy showers still exist in the rooms (these are not shown on the Krematorium II basement inventory, whereas the 14 of KII are), introduce the missing «human» element. We now have the set:

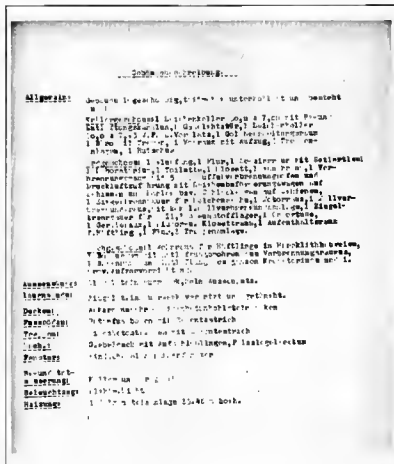
(undressing cellar) = (gas-light door + 4 mesh columns + 4 covers - about 24 dummy showers), which no longer corresponds to: (corpse cellar 2) + (corpse cellar 1), but to: (undressing room) = (homocidal gas chamber).

Still on 31st March, a letter written by Kirschbeck and signed by Bochoff reminded the Anschluga DAW [German equipment workshops] of the order of 6th March for one «Gastküche door», 100 by 192 cm to be made for Leichenkeller 1 (the gas chamber) of Krematorium III [See Part II, Chapter 8].

As from 1st April, all efforts were concentrated on Krematorium III whose construction had virtually ceased in order to finally complete KII (on 31st March) and also flesh KII V as quickly as possible (4th April). The Krematorium III drainage work was started on this day by Messrs Karl Falck, who worked on it until 13th April. Messrs Triton also helped with this job from 2nd to 13th April. Still on 1st April, Triton sent the Bauleitung an invoice for 25,148 RM for the installation of one furnace, without indicating either the model or where it was installed. In the author's opinion it was probably an estimate for the «circular» furnace of the envisaged Krematorium VI, which was never built.

On 4th April, Krematorium V was officially handed over to the camp administration. It would appear that it was not yet completely operational, since the gas-tight doors of the gas chambers were fitted on 16th and 17th April by a gang working for Heiss.

★



Document 58
[PHO for BW 3041, page 34]

Translation:

Description of building

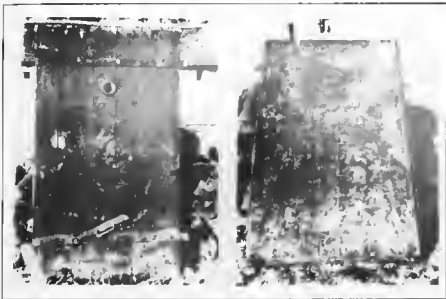
General: Single-storey building, partly over basement, comprising.

Basement: Corpse cellar 30.0 x 7.0 [m] with ventilation and air extraction ducts, 1 gas-tight door, 1 corpse cellar 50.0 x 7.93 [m], wind break and vestibule, 1 gold processing room, 1 office with safe, 1 antechamber with lift [temporary goods house], 3 stairways, 1 [corpse] chute

Ground floor: 1 wind break, 1 corridor, 1 dissecting room with table, 1 laboratory, 1 washroom, 1 WC, 1 [corpse] washing room, 1 incineration room with 5 3-metrica cremation furnaces and lower installation, with corpse charging trolley on rails, coal [in fact coke] or clinker trolley on rails, 1 brick separating wall for the ash's of corpses [outside yard], 1 motor room [in fact three], 1 waste incinerator room, 1 brick separating wall for waste [another outside yard], 1 fuel store, 1 cap's room, 1 tool store [iron for firing and operating the furnaces], 1 room with urns and WC [and shower], 1 prisoners' rest room, 1 corridor, 1 stairway.

Roof space: 1 heretic-built room for prisoner accommodation, 1 loft with furnace room an extraction ducts, 1 loft with an extraction for the whole Krematorium and 1 temporary goods hoist.

External walls: Brickwork with no facing
Internal walls: Brickwork, plastered and whitewashed
Ceilings: Ackermann reinforced parqu岸s
Floors: Concrete floor with cement screed
Stairways: Reinforced concrete with cement screed
Roof: Gable roof with dormers, tile covered
Windows: Single glazing
Water supply and drainage: Basement and ground floor
Lighting: Electric lighting
Heating: 1 chimney installation 15.46 m high



Document 51
[PMO photos 31 (left) and 32 (right) of microfilm 205]

Exterior and interior of a gas-tight door from a homicidal gas chamber (to can be seen by the heavy horizontal grill protecting the inspection peephole on the inside) found in the Reichsaufbaubau (building) (historic yard) on the Littenstein of the camp.

Document 52
[PMO file BW 3043 page 12]

Enlargement of part of the forensic inventory of KZ-museum II shows up to part of the set of forensic documents. 4 «DRAHTNETZENSCHIEBENRICHTUNGEN» IN WIRE MESH INTRODUCTION DEVICES» with «HOLZBLENDEN» WOODEN COVERS were installed in Leichenkeller 1 (then have been manually interior to the line corresponding to Leichenkeller 2). (The entire document is presented in «Our proof, our single proof».)

Waschb. o. Gai.	
Waschb. einfach.	
Klosettbecken	
Pissoirbecken	
Stecker	
Pissrinnen	
Zapfhähne	69
eis. Waschrinnen	
Elektr. Pumpen	
Wasserbehälter	
Brausen	
<i>Handaufhängeschränke</i>	
<i>Holzblenden</i>	
Bemerkungen	

Document 52: (Dossier P.M.O. BW 30/43, page 12)

[Aggrandissement partiel du bordereau récapitulatif des équipements du sous-sol du crématoire II à sa livraison. Quatre DRAHTNETZENSCHIEBENRICHTUNGEN(DISPOSITIF)S D'INTRODUCTION EN TREILLIS DE FIL DE FER avec quatre HOLZBLENDEN(OBTURATEURS EN BOIS avaient été posés dans sa 1-Keller 1 (inscrits faussement sur la ligne correspondant à la 1-Keller 2). Le document entier est présenté dans les chapitres "Une preuve..." et "État...")]

VEDAG Techn. Revierfr.
VEREINIGTE DACHPAPPEN-FABRIKEN - AKTIENGESSELLSCHAFT
 Betriebe Schlesien

OSBELAU 1 ELFERPLATZ 1
 Personal, Dresden, Baumaterialien 184111 Originaldruckfr. Veding Dresden

HUTA

Hoch- und Tiefbau

Kattowitz

Friedrich-Strasse 19

7 APR 1943
 103
 Dresden 8179, Kreisstadt 400,
 Hindenburg 87179 Ostern 50 324

Umg. Zeichner: Herr Neustroff vom Unser Zeichner: Apparatengruppe
 Blatt: Ausschnitts Go.M.350 6. April 43
Krene I und II

Via uns neuer Vorarbeiter mitteilt, sollen die Decken nur einlagig isoliert werden, weil diese Bauten nur als vorübergehend ausgeführt werden. Eine Decke ist bereits fertiggestellt, während die zweite Decke in den nächsten Tagen isoliert wird. Wir nennen Ihnen als

Abgeordnete für fix und fertige Ausführung der einlagigen Isolierung ... RM. 1,65 je qm

Wir bitten Sie aber, davon Kenntnis nehmen zu lassen, daß man für einlagige Decken-Isolierungen die übliche Garantie von 2 Jahren nicht übernehmen kann, was ausdrücklich ist und wir empfehlen Ihnen, sich der Bauherrschafft gegenüber ebenfalls den Rücken zu decken.

Heil Hitler!

VEDAG

Vereinigten Dachpappen-Fabriken

Veding Lauen & Kreis 184111

Document 53
 (PMO file 89-50-10 page 55)

Translation
 of the text of the letter from Vedag (munitions felt manufacturers) to Huta (civil engineers):

Your ref. Your letter Our ref. Posting date
 Subject: Auschwitz Go M 350 6th April 43
 Krematorien I and II (actually II and III)

Our foreman informs us that the floors are to be damp-proofed with only one layer, as these buildings are built to be only temporary. One floor is already finished, while the second floor is to be damp-proofed in the next few days. We indicate to you as

Agreed price for complete and finished execution of single-layer damp-proofing 1.65 Rmk per square metre

We would ask you, however, to note that for single-layer damp-proofing of a floor, it is not possible to give the usual guarantee of 2 years, which is understandable, and we recommend you to also cover yourselves by informing the customer.

Heil Hitler!

[manuscript] Wrote to the SS on 12/4/43
 [initials]

[2 Vedag initials]



Document 54
 (Photo by the author)

Rear view of one of the 145 perforated plates, perforated by hand, which were set up and nailed to the wooden floor slats on the upper part of the Leichenkeller I of Krematorium III, now kept in the PMO museum - Block 25. Toxicological analyses were carried out in 1945 by the Czech Forensic Institute of Copenhagen street no 4 complete plates and 2 damaged ventilation nozzles found in the ruins of Krematorium II. After wrapping the whole sub-sample that covered these objects back to the room 72 grams of scrapings were collected and subjected to two qualitative analyses, which established the presence of cyanide compounds. The report, signed by Dr Jan Z. Reibel, was written on 15th December 1945 and transmitted to the Examining Judge Jan Sehn.

On 6th April, Vedag informed Huta that they could not give the usual two year guarantee because the floors (probably the basements of Krematorium II) had been sealed with only one layer of damp-proofing material. The firm had been warned of this by their foreman at Birkenau, who said it was BECAUSE THESE BUILDINGS [Krematorium II and III] WERE BUILT TO BE ONLY TEMPORARY *wird diese Bauten nur als Vorübergehend ausgeführt werden* etc. [Document 53].

• The crematoria were erected at the end of the two main thoroughfares in the Birkenau camp: firstly in order not to increase the area of the camp and consequently the safety precautions required, and secondly so that they would not be too far from the camp, since it was planned to use the gas chambers and undressing rooms as bath houses when the extermination actions came to an end.

Hoess envisions that once the extermination was over, i.e. when there were no more Jews left in Europe, the gas chambers and undressing rooms would be converted into baths and showers. It was already with this in mind that Bischoff, through the intermediary of the SS, had ordered the construction of a shower in the crematorium 100 showers ranging waste heated by the waste incinerator of Krematorium III (this system was found in the crematorium of KL Natzweiler (Struthof), where the incinerator supplied the heat for the hot water tank for the showers next to the crematorium room), and the SS also had a plan for the construction of a shower with proof that the Leichenkammer 1 of the Krematorium could be used both as showers AND as gas chambers, because they did not know exactly how a homicidal gas chamber functioned at Buchenau. They thought they were equipped with REAL SHOWERS with hot associated pipes and faucets, and they had a shower with hot water and hot tap water, as they wished. A precise knowledge of the operation of the gas chambers makes it possible to confirm that Hoess was indeed thinking of the FUTURE of the Krematorium, and that he was not only thinking of the FUTURE of the Krematorium, but he was also thinking of the FUTURE of the crematorium, probably applied to 1942 and would have been the first step in the "while-waiting" of the Birkenau Krematorium. For even till the war had ended later than it did, in 1945 or 1947, with the victory or defeat of the Germans, i.e. in either case permitting the "round-up" and "extermination" of the Jews, the crematoriums and the showers of the Krematorium, having fulfilled their "mission" and in view of their utter number, would have been destroyed, the remaining one being considered to appear simply a normal cremation installation for health reasons, with or without a shower installation. What more, the crematoriums and the showers of the Krematorium, as well as the gas chambers, are pure myth, based on no document.

Messing, after having worked on 5th April on the air extraction system of the Krematorium III furnace room, worked from 6th to 11th on Leichenkeller 1, where he installed the ventilator fan [in fact the extractor fan].



Document 55
JPMO reg. no. 145001

Excavations carried out on 14th August 1968 by a group of Germans from the «Stibachener» company in the northern part of the ruins of the Krematorium, lifted gas chambers. It was possible to clear at the base of the eastern wall, three grillages covering the air extraction vents in the lower part of Luftschlecker 1. Unfortunately the walls of the excavation were not consolidated and the brick walls in collapse, leaving a severely identifiable ruins.



Document 59 b6

Zentral-Baulleitung

der Wehrmacht und Polizei
Potsdam, OSt.

Potsdam, West, Mai 1943.
General Postoffice, P.O. 48
General Postoffice, P.O. 222/30

7048/11

Reg. Nr. 28095/43/Ja/C.
In diesem Schreiben liegt die Anlage

Betr: Krematorium II (I) und III (II), Isolierungsarbeiten.
Begr: Schreiben Dr/Ti v. 12.4.43.
Anlg: --

Firma
HUTA
Bauh- und Tiefbau-Aktiengesellschaft
K u n n e n
Friedrichstr. 19.



Da o.e. Schreiben wird mitgeteilt, daß sich einerseits die Baulleitung auf Verwehling des Isoliermeisters Krause der Firma Vedag damit einverstanden erklärt hat, die Isolierung einlagig durchzuführen. Mit Rücksicht auf die ausserordentliche Dringlichkeit der Arbeiten und des Verwehling durch den Isoliermeister Krause hatte die Zentralbauleitung eine Nachfrage bei Ihrer Firma nicht für notwendig befunden. Der für den inzwischen zur Wehrmacht eingewechselte Isoliermeister Krause abgestellte Isolierer erklärte der Baulleitung gegenüber, daß die Garantie von 2 Jahren für die Isolierungserhaltenheit der Keller nur dann übernommen werden kann, wenn die Isolierung einlagig durchgeföhrt wird.

Die Zentralbauleitung ist mit der Ausführung der Isolierung der weiteren Kellerräumen in 2 Lagen einverstanden, wenn für diese Ausführung die Garantie von 2 Jahren durch Ihre Firma übernommen wird. Von der Übernahme einer Garantie von 2 Jahren für die bereits ausgeführte einlagige Kellertisolierung wird von der Zentralbauleitung Abstand genommen. Sie werden jedoch hiermit aufgefordert, umgehend Nachtragsangebote für die Isolierung

1. einlagig,
2. zweilagig

der Zentralbauleitung vorzulegen.

Der Leiter der Zentralbauleitung
der Wehrmacht und Polizei, Potsdam
für 2 Lagen ausgeführt werden
H. Starnbachführer. 3

Document 56

[PMO file BW 30/30, page 3 (original) and BW 30/34, page 65 (file copy)]

Translation:

Amschwitz, 4th May 1943

Correspondence register no 28095/43/Ja/L.

Subject: Krematorium II (I) and III (II), Damp-proofing work
Reference: Letter Dz/W/ of 12/4/43
Enclosure: --

Messrs Huta
Civil Engineers
Kallowitz
Friedrichstraße 19

With reference to the above-mentioned letter, we would inform you that the Baulenung agreed at the time to the suggestion by damp-proofing foreman Krause of Messrs Vedag that the damp-proofing should be in a single layer. In view of the extreme urgency of the work and the suggestion made by foreman Krause, the Baulenung did not consider it necessary to refer back to your firm. The damp-proofing expert who has replaced foreman Krause, who has in the meantime been called up in the Wehrmacht, has told the Baulenung that the 2 year guarantee for the damp-proofing of the cellars can be given only if there are at least two layers of damp-proofing material.

The Baulenung agrees that the damp-proofing of the floors of the other cellars shall be in two layers, provided that your firm will give a 2 year guarantee in this case. For the work already done with a single layer of damp-proofing, the Baulenung waives the 2 year guarantee. You are nevertheless hereby requested to immediately submit to the Baulenung an additional quote for damp-proofing:

1. in one layer.
2. in two layers.

Head of the Amschwitz Waffen SS and
Police Central Construction Management
[signed] Binchoff
SS Major

[Manuscript]
To Herr Dr: b.R.

The prices for 2 layers appear on the main quote!
For a single layer the price is to be determined
[initials] 7/5

On 12th April, Hata covered themselves via a-bis the Bauleitung by telling them that the since the floors of the Krematorium III («I» in the text) basements had only a single layer of damp-proofing, Vedag refused to give the usual guarantee of two years and that under these conditions Hata was unable to do so.

On 13th and 14th April, Messing worked on the air extraction system of Leichenkeller 2 of Krematorium III, calling it in his time-sheets «Ankleidekeller/Undressing cellars».

On 16th April, Topf & Sons wrote to the Bauleitung concerning the damaged blowers of the forced-draft installation of Krematorium II (documented «I» in the letter, even though the subject of this letter is without doubt Kt II and III), requesting them to be returned to Erfurt immediately on removal. Topf credited the Bauleitung with the sum of 3,705 RM, but refused to return the metal ration coupon arguing that they could no longer use it for other orders.

Having received an order from the Bauleitung on 16th April for the fittings for DNE «Gas» (gas tight) doors (which was ready on 20th), the Auschwitz DAW metalworking shop that same day requested the iron required for RWE such doors (in worksites 30a and 30b Krematorium III and IV). The metalworking shop was killing two birds with one stone, i.e. the fittings to be produced were for the «Gas» of Krematorium III and for the four doors of the two (at this date) gas chambers in Krematorium IV.

From 17th to 24th April, a gang from Messrs Josef Klage of Gleiwitz covered the dissecting table of Krematorium III with granite («Ternsteine») and took it to the Krematorium, where it was installed.

From 19th to 22nd April, Messing continued work on the air extraction system of Leichenkeller 2 of Krematorium III, still calling it the «Ankleidekeller/Undressing cellars».

Worksite 30a was despatched on 1st and 2nd May, despite the fact that it was by then behind schedule (it should have been finished on 10th April) because of the Labor Day holiday. Nobody was gassed on these two days.

On 4th May, Jurek replied for the Bauleitung to the Hata letter of 12th April (documented «I»). The signpost was minimally somebody who was absent, dump-proofing foreman Krause of Vedag, meanwhile called up in the Wehrmacht, who had authorized the single layer of proofing material. His replacement refused it, saying that two layers were necessary for Vedag to be able to give their two-year guarantee. The Bauleitung, probably tired of these futile arguments which were holding up work on Krematorium III, was conciliatory on this matter, agreeing that work should continue with two layers provided a dump-proofing guarantee was given, and waiving the guarantee with respect to the work already done with only a single layer.

In the afternoon of the same day, SS Major Alfred FRANK, GRICKSCHEIDT, adjutant to SS General Maximilian VON HERFF [Documents 57 and 57a], Head of the SS Central Personnel Office [SS Personal Hauptamt, 98-99 Wilhelmstrasse, Berlin-Charlottenburg], accompanying the General on a tour of inspection to the «General Government» (the half of the Polish territory occupied by the Germans and placed under the authority of Hans Frank), arrived in K L Auschwitz (although reported, the presence of General von



Document 57

On 5th May, the Auschwitz DAW metalworking shop received an order from the Bauleitung, made out the previous day, for the production of «2 handrails (for stairways), each 1.70 m long, 1 m high (see sketches 1 and 2)» and «2 handrails, each 1.20 m long, 1 m high (see sketch 3)» for the 2nd basement stairways (due 22nd September). This order requesting delivery for 14th May, was not completed until 25th. [As the original orders of the «AWL metalworking shop/Schleusen-WL» are not in the possession of the PMO, the three sketches are not known.] A study of Bauleitung drawings 2003 and 2197 reveals that the two 7.50 m guardrails, of different form, were for the access stairways to the basement vestibules of Krematorium II and III (coming from the north yard of Kt II and the south yard of Kt III) [Figure 1 and 2]. The two others of 12.20 m, identical in form, were for the access stairways to the undressing rooms (Leichenkeller 2) of Krematorium II and III [Figure 3]. They were removed when Krematorium II and III were dismantled in December 1944 and found intact in the «Bath» of the Laboratorium of the camp [Document 95].

On 11th May, Jürling wrote an urgent telegram to Messrs Topf of Erfurt, signed by Kirschbach and Prüfer by the civilian engineer Ludwig at 18:01 hours, requesting that Prüfer set out for Auschwitz without delay and that the drawings and calculations for the chimneys and the installation instructions for the temporary Densig III goods hoist [for

Herff] be despatched. Frank-Grieksch visited Krematorium II and is supposed to have witnessed the gassing of those unfit for work from a convoy of 2,930 Greek Jews (from the Salonika ghetto). Following this visit, between the evening of 4th May and 16th May he wrote a report on what he had seen at Auschwitz-Birkenau for his chief, von Herff, and for Reichsführer SS Himmler. This report was entitled «JEWISH RESETTLEMENT ACTION» [Document 58].



Document 57a

Documents 57 and 57a (Personal archives)

Maximilian von Herff, Alfred Frank-Grieksch's chief. Born in Hannover on 17th April 1893, died 6th September 1945 in a prison camp in England. Left: As SS Brigadier-General, probably in August 1942, when he was made Head of the SS Central Personnel Office, a position he held until May 1945. Right: Wearing the uniform of the highest rank he held, SS Lieutenant-General.

Krematorium III] be sent at once. This telegram does not state which building(s) the chimneys were for.

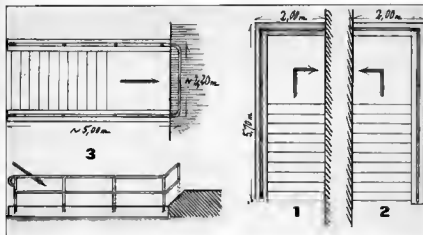
[This urgent telegram was the first of a series, the total number of which is not known, reflecting the general air of panic reigning in the Bauleitung. The crematorium situation in Birkenau had suddenly deteriorated as the remaining telegrams in the series show: Krematorium IV and II, handed over on 22nd and 31st March respectively, «WERE OUT OF ORDER, with damaged chimneys, Kt III, although not completed, could have been operational if it had been possible to feed the furnaces with corpses from the basement, but this was not the case, as the goods hoist could not be installed because the instructions were not available» [Messing started installing on 17th May and completed the job on 9th June]. Only Krematorium V was functioning correctly.]

Hearing nothing from Topf, Jürling sent a second urgent telegram on 14th May, this time signed by Buschoff, requesting the state and thermal calculations for the chimneys of Krematorium II and IV and insisting that Prüfer should come to Auschwitz [Document 61]. The civilian employee Schwender sent the text at 16:00 hours. This telegram in fact confirmed a telephone conversation between Jürling and Topf in the morning, in which he had learned that Prüfer was on

a business trip in the Rhineland, but would do his best to arrive in Auschwitz by Monday 17th May. Only ONE AND A HALF HOURS LATER, Schwender sent another urgent telegram to Topf, signed by Buschoff and, in view of the late hour, dated and filed the next day [Document 61]. In this telegram, Jürling requested the urgent study of an evaluation to obtain hot water from the waste incinerator of Krematorium III, then under construction, to supply about one hundred showers (probably to be located in an annex building built on the southern wall of the Krematorium). Prüfer was supposed to bring the relevant drawings with him on 17th May. [This plan was never implemented, although such installations were built in other camps, for example in the crematorium of K L Natzweiler (Struthof) where the incinerator was the main source of heat for the showers]. Although this request for a hot water system for a hundred NORMAL showers was in no way criminal, it was recorded in the Krematorium III, worksite 30a, file under the heading «SONDERMASSNÄHMEN/SPECIAL MEASURES» because the building was connected with these measures, the killing and cremation of Jews unfit for work.

On Monday 17th May, it is more than likely that Prüfer arrived at Auschwitz as arranged. As we have no formal proof we cannot be categorical, but if Messing began installing the 16th of Krematorium III precisely on 17th May, it was not simply a whim on his part, but because he had received the installation instructions brought by Prüfer. The engineer was certainly present on 18th (Topf letter of 19/6/43). According to subsequent telegrams it is clear he had not brought the drawings and calculations required for the repair of the chimneys of Krematorium II and IV, and in fact he could not reasonably produce them until he had seen the location and extent of the damage. It was only after inspecting Krematorium II and IV that the following decisions could be taken, after consultation with Buschoff, regard Kt II as quickly as possible, abandon the operation of the Kt IV furnace completely and improve the operation of Kt V by fitting its gas chambers (and those of Kt IV, still intact) with an air extraction system.

[This abandonment of Krematorium IV was not formally stated (and for good reason! This is particularly evident on reading the letter of 20th June 1943) on the dismantling of the Krematorium, but it can be deduced from several pieces of evidence, subsequent correspondence between the Bauleitung and Topf makes no mention of its repair. Camp Commandant Hoes in his memoirs states that «Number III [Kt III] failed completely after a short time and later ceased to be used altogether» after the first fifty days (22nd March to 10th May 1943), during which time operations had to be interrupted at least once for repairs to fissures that had appeared in the furnace, and during which time less than 10,000 victims were cremated (probably 6,000), not a single member of the Sonderkommando reports having worked on the furnace of Krematorium IV. What is more, Krematorium V being of identical design, it was to be feared that it would suffer the same damage unless it was used more moderately. Despite the fact that Kt V had (like «handled with care») absolutely had to go on being used until Krematorium III came into service, it was then mothballed, barely operational. In May-June 1944, despite repairs the furnace of Krematorium V was still inefficient as even operations were frequently interrupted by breakdowns, so open-air cremation ditches were dug next to the gas chambers. It would appear that Krematorium V really worked for only two months in 1943, annihilating about 15,000 victims. In summer 1944, it can be «credited» with about 50,000 people gassed, but they were cremated in the open-air ditches.]

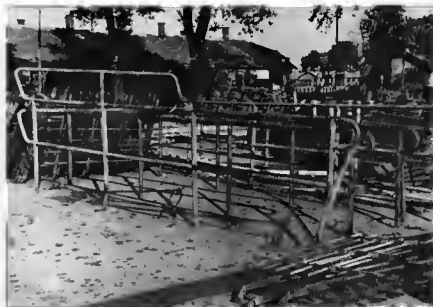


Figures 1, 2 and 3
[Drawings by the author]

Figure 1 shows the access stairway to the basement vestibule of Krematorium II, leading down from the north yard. The basement rail is in the form of an inverted 'L'.

Figure 2 shows the corresponding access stairway to the basement vestibule of Krematorium III, leading down from the south yard. The basement rail is in the form of an 'L'; hence the need for two different sketches for the two 7.70 m rails.

Figure 3 shows the plan and oblique views of the guardrail for the access stairway to the dressing rooms of Krematorium II and III. The rails of an 'U' shape and therefore identical for the two Krematorien (the original sketch 3 was probably an oblique view).



Document 59
[PMD no. 397 (last two screens)]

Metal guard rails from the access stairways to the basements of Krematorien II and III also led to the 'Bauhaus' and beyond after the Liberation. A guardrail for the access stairway to the underground room of Krematorium II or III is perfectly manageable, but in the context of the photo the rails are so piled up as to be unrecognisable.

THE FRANCKE-GRIKSCHE REPORT

This report was shown to Professor Charles W. Sydney of Hampden-Sydney College, Virginia (United States) in 1976 by a person from Richmond (Virginia) who had discovered it after the second world war. This man, apparently Eric M. Lippmann according to the signature, was at the time employed by the US Army on collecting documents and seeking anything that might be used as evidence in the Nuremberg trials. He seems to remember finding the carbon copy of the original report among a set of documents in a place he cannot recall exactly, somewhere in Bavaria. The original was not there. Having immediately realized the value of this report, which described the whole process of exterminating the Jews in Auschwitz, he made a typed copy for himself, as he had to hand the carbon over to the American Prosecutor at Nuremberg. He certified in longhand that he had made a true copy, and signed it «Eric M. Lippmann». The two sheets that he typed are now preserved in the Tamplin Institute of Brandeis University with other documents from the Third Reich.

[The author would like to stress that in 1945-47 it was not so easy to reproduce documents as it is today. Finding the original of a document, whose content is perfectly well known, requires long and laborious research with frequently uncertain results. Factual inference can lead to later confusion in this type of investigation, as has been shown by the recent case of a highly-placed person in Austria.]

Part of a report rendered by SS Sturmhaupführer
Francke-Grieksch on a trip through the General Government
on 4 to 16 May 1942.

Umsiedlungen - Aktion der Juden.

Eine besondere Aufgabe hat das Lager Auschwitz in der Organisation der Judenfrage. Bekannt ist, dass in der Gegend eine kürzere Zeit und ohne grosses Aufsehen die Durchführung des Führerbefehls.

Die sogenannte "Umsiedlungsaktion" der Juden läuft folgendermassen ab:

Die Juden kommen in Sonderzügen (Güterwagen) gegen Abend an und werden auf besonderen Gleisen in eigene dafür abgegrenzte Bezirke des Lagers geführt. Dort werden die Ausgeladen und durch Arbeitskommissionen in Anwesenheit des Lagerkommandanten und Adjutanten SS-Führer erst einzeln auf Arbeitsfähigkeit untersucht. Hier kommt jeder, der noch irgendwie in den Arbeitsprozess eingebaut werden kann, kommt in ein besonderes Lager. Vorübergehend Gruppierungen kommen in das Sanitätslager und werden durch besondere Ärzte wieder gesund gemacht. Grundsatz ist: Jede Arbeitskraft der Arbeit zu erhalten. Die "Umsiedlungsaktion" ist einerseits für völlig absehbare, da man es sich nicht leisten kann, wichtige Arbeitskräfte, laufend zu vernichten.

Die Untauglichen kommen in ein grösseres Haus in die Kellerkammern, die von aussen zu betreten sind. Man geht 5-6 Stufen hinunter und kommt in einen langen, gut ausgestatteten und durchlüfteten Kellerraum, der rechts und links mit Stühlen ausgestattet ist. Er ist hell erleuchtet und über den Stühlen befinden sich Balken, an denen Gefangene hängen. Diese sind für ihre neuen Aufgaben geschult und gereinigt werden. Sie müssen sich also völlig entkleiden, um befreit zu werden. Die gesamte Panik und Unruhe zu vermeiden, werden sie angelesen, ihre Kleider zu legen, damit sie nach der Zeit ihre Sachen neuverpacken, so geht alles in volliger Ruhe vor sich. Dann durchschreitet man einen kleinen Flur und gelangt in einen grossen Kellerraum, der einen grossen Saal bildet. In diesem Saal befinden sich drei grosse Säulen. In diese kann man von oben ausserhalb des Kellerbaus - gewisse Mittel betrachten, nachdem 3-4-500 Menschen in dieser Saal verpackt sind, werden die Türen geschlossen und von oben herab die

2

geht mit den Stoffen in die Säulen gelassen, sowie die Säulen der oben der Säule berühren, entwickeln sie bestimmte Stoffe, die in einer Minute die Menschen einschließen. Einige Minuten später öffnet sich die Tür an der anderen Seite, die zu einer Fahrstuhl führt. Die Masse der Leichen werden geschnitten und von besonderen Leuten (Juden) die Säule ausgebrochen (Goldschmelze). Man hat die Erfahrung gemacht, dass die Juden in hohen Zahlen Schmutzstücke, Gold, Platin usw. versteckt halten. Danach wurden die Leichen in Fahrstühle verladen und kamen in den 1. Stock, dort befinden sich 10 grosse Brennstofföfen, in welchen die Leichen verbrannt werden. (Von frischen Leichen besonders gut brennen, braucht man für den Brennstoff nur 1/2 - 1 Ztr. Koks. Wie arg ist es, dass wird von Judenbüchlingen verrichtet, die diesen Lager nie wieder verlassen.

Bisheriger Erfolg dieser "Umsiedlungsaktion": 500000 Juden
jetzt Kapazität der "Umsiedlungsaktion"-Ofen: 10 000 in 24 Stunden.

I affirm, that this is a true copy of
the original report. Eric M. Lippmann.

Document 385

Document 385

[Photocopy of the typed copy of the carbon copy in SS Major Francke-Grieksch's career file, kindly transmitted to Serge Klarsfeld by Charles W. Sydney, Jr.]

Jewish resettlement action.

The Auschwitz camp has a special task in the settlement of the Jewish question. The most modern methods make it possible to implement this Führer Order very quickly and discreetly. The so-called «settlement actions» for the Jews proceed as follows: The Jews arrive in special trains (goods wagons) towards evening and are taken by a special line to a special area of the camp. There they are unloaded and examined by a medical board in the presence of the Camp Commandant and several leading SS to the first place to see if they are fit for work [selection]. Here anybody who can be integrated into the work process in anyway is sent to a special camp. Those with some temporary ailments are sent immediately to the quarantine camp [B.III] and are brought back to health through a special diet. The basic principle is: keep as many prisoners as possible for labour. The «resettlement actions» of the old sort is completely rejected, for it is not permissible to systematically destroy substantial labour capacities.

The unfit go to a biggish house, into the basement rooms, which are accessible from the outside. They descend 5 or 6 [1] steps and come to a long, well-built and ventilated basement [Leichenkeller 2], fitted with benches on the right and left. It is brightly lit, and above the benches are mirrors. The prisoners are told that they are to be disinfected and washed ready for their new tasks. They therefore have to undress completely to be bathed. In order to avoid any panic or disorder, they are told to arrange their clothes neatly and leave them under a number so that they can find their things again after the bath. Everything proceeds in complete calm. They then go through a small corridor [Gänge] on drawing 932] and arrive in a big basement room [Leichenkeller 1] that resembles a shower room. In this room, there are three big pillars [2]. Into these it is possible from above, outside the basement, to lower certain products. After 300 to 400, outside have gathered in this room, the doors [3] are closed and from above the containers with the products [cans of Zyklon-B pellets] are lowered into the pillars. When the containers reach the floor of the pillars, they produce certain substances that put the people to sleep [1] in one minute. A few minutes later, the door on the other side [4] is opened, leading to a lift [Aufzug]. The hair of the corpses is cut off and the teeth are broken out [gold teeth] by qualified people (Jews). It has been observed that Jews have hidden jewels, gold, platinum, etc. in hollow teeth. After this the corpses are loaded into the lift and go to the first floor [5]. There, there are 10 big crematorium furnaces [6] in which the corpses are burned. (As fresh corpses burn particularly well, the whole process requires only 1/2 to 1 Zentner [25 to 50 kg] of coke). The work itself is carried out by Jewish prisoners who will never leave this camp.

The result to date of this «resettlement action»: 500,000 Jews [7]. The present capacity of the «resettlement action» furnaces: 10,000 in 24 hours [8].

[Frank-Gricksch reports that «The unfit go to a BIGGISH HOUSE, into the basement...», without saying that it is a crematorium, or which one. Later in his account we learn that the «house» is equipped with «big crematorium furnaces», so it must have been a crematorium. Only Krematorium II and III had semi-basements, whereas Krematorium I, IV and V had none. On 4th May 1943, only Krematorium II was complete and operational, while Kr III was not yet ready. Frank-Gricksch's «biggish house» can therefore be nothing other than Birkenau Krematorium II. The errors in his report are:

- [1] «5 or 6 steps» (for the access stairway at the western end of Leichenkeller 2) instead of 10. Simple lack of attention on the part of a man who used this stairway only once. The error would be more serious on the part of a Sonderkommando member, using it several times a day.
- [2] «three big pillars» [columns for pouring Zyklon-B] instead of four. The explanation of this error is that Frank-Gricksch must have just gone a few paces into Leichenkeller 1, not down to the end, and thus noticed only three of the four columns.
- [3] «the doors [of Leichenkeller 1] are closed» instead of the door, singular. This is probably due to confusion with the double door of Leichenkeller 2 leading to the corridor, through which he had just come before having a quick look over the threshold of Leichenkeller 1.
- [4] «the door on the other side is opened, leading to a lift». There was an entrance door at one end and exit at the other, but only one door to Leichenkeller 1, through which the victims entered and from which the corpses were removed. This is the most glaring fault, but may be explained by the route taken during Frank-Gricksch's visit.
- [5] «go to the first floor» instead of the floor above, or ground floor. A common mistake made by many witnesses.
- [6] «10 big crematorium furnaces», instead of 5 three-muffle furnaces or 15 muffles. As with Leichenkeller I, Frank-Gricksch probably did not go the whole length of the furnace room, but stood at the western entrance in front of the first furnace and listened to the explanations given. It could be that the figure ten was the total he was given for the capacity of Krematorium I and III together (10 three-muffle furnaces).
- [7] «500,000 Jews» [in May 1943], instead of a true figure of probably somewhere between 200,000 and 250,000. This figure would have been provided by the Auschwitz SS guide and Frank-Gricksch is merely repeating the inflated figure given to make the camp look efficient.
- [8] «10,000 in 24 hours», instead of the official figure of 4,756 per day for the FIVE Krematoria (I, II, III, IV and V), itself a theoretical figure that was never achieved in 1943, as proved by the Krematorium coke consumption. The maximum daily throughput of the 4 Birkenau Krematoria was in the order of 3,000 incinerations. What is more, in May 1943, Kr III was not yet in service. This is simply another Auschwitz SS propaganda figure passed on by Frank-Gricksch.]

[The report was found in his career file and is now thought to be preserved in the National Archive Collection of World War II War Crimes Records, in Washington, under reference NA RG 238. The author is unable to be certain whether or not Frank-Gricksch was a direct witness of the gassing of the Greeks found unfit for work. The enthusiastic tone of the report throws some doubt on his DIRECT participation, despite his description of the gassing, and thus would explain certain errors. Unlike other dignitaries of the Third Reich, who after witnessing the «special treatment» of the Jews, became silent about it, visualising the insane consequences, Frank-Gricksch is quite lively about the technique used by the Auschwitz SS to implement the «Jewish resettlement action», the title he gave to his report, which in fact was to be the very first report on the extermination of Jews in the Birkenau Krematoria, at a time when Kr III was not even finished. In addition, this report was produced under very favourable circumstances: it was the first, the author was an SS witness writing freely (not testifying before an Allied tribunal) and he had visited the site, guided and given explanations by one of the people responsible for its operation. However, as compared with the testimony of former Sonderkommando members collected after the war, his report is disappointing, and contains eight errors, six of which can be attributed to its author, Frank-Gricksch.

There are two hypotheses possible, either Frank-Gricksch visited Krematorium II when it was empty, or he witnessed a batch of unfit for work being gassed and then incinerated. In 1942-43, most of the «special actions» took place at night for obvious reasons of discretion. Frank-Gricksch was expected in Cracow in the evening of 4th May 1943 at a almost certain that he would have been unable to see the arrival of the Greek Jews, which probably took place after his departure. This is the author's firm belief, but he is unable to prove it.

The most striking and serious error in his report is his stating that the gas chamber (Leichenkeller 1) had a door at each end. This can be explained only if there was some kind of break in his visit to the crematorium that caused him to lose his bearings somewhat. His error becomes comprehensible if we assume the following itinerary: descent from the outside to the addressing room (Leichenkeller 2), walk through the stairway through the door at each end, through this into the short corridor and then the vestibule, from which he took a few steps into the gas chamber (Leichenkeller 1), whose operation was then explained to him. He emerged from the basement via the northern stairway into the yard, then entered the ground floor of the crematorium through the north entrance and was shown into the furnace room. Here the titles of the Top furnaces were explained, probably while he was standing before Furnace 1. Then he took the corpse lift down to the basement, in front of the entrance to the gas chamber (where, not recognizing the vestibule he had passed through some time before, he thought this was ANOTHER door to the gas chamber). He probably went back up to the ground floor on the corpse hoist and left the Krematorium through the main, north, door. The «break» in this occurred when he emerged from the basement by the northern stairway, instead of more logically taking the corpse hoist directly up to the furnace room. One indication that Frank-Gricksch did not actually witness a gassing, is his description of the successive states of the victims: they walk in, are put to sleep and are then corpses to be incinerated. Finally, this Frank-Gricksch report is very short on detail regarding Krematorium II, even though it does correctly describe its criminal operation. It's only real, and very important, merit is that it gives a clear and precise explanation of the term «Jewish resettlement action»/Umwidmungslaktion der Juden». The original method was wholesale annihilation, the second method involved selection into three groups (those fit for work being used as labour, those temporarily unfit being rapidly cured and used as labour, those unfit being sent to «biggish houses» [Krematoria II] where they are «put to sleep» and subsequently to ashes). This title of the «Auschwitz Album» by Serge Klarsfeld, «Umwidmung der Juden aus Ungarn» [Resettlement of the Jews from Hungary], despite the fact that it has been possible to compare certain scenes in the photographs with a «peaceful country outing against a background of barbed wire», can no longer give rise to any discussion, and covers the second type of «resettlement».]

Nr. 11 11943/1a

An - Auschwitz, am 14.5.1943

44

Dringendes
Telegramm:

Anschrift: Topfwerke Erfurt
 Text: Wärmetechnische und statische Berechnungen für
 Gekörntaste der Krem. II und IV mitbringend. Anwesenheit
 Obering. Prüfer sofort unbedingt nötig.

ges. Bischoff

Übergeben an
 14.5.1943 16⁰⁰
 ges. H.A. Schwenker

HB. Habe heute vormittag bereits mit Topfwerke tel. gesprochen.
 Obering. Prüfer ist in Rheinfeld. Telefonat verl. und el.
 von den dringenden Berechnungen in Au. Obering. von der Firma
 benachrichtigt. Betrifft Montag hier. Früher wäre es nicht
 möglich, habe der Sicherheit wegen, ... für
 beide Krem. (also II u. IV) v. 1. u. 2.

Anteilig Kirschbeck

Document 48
 (P. 117) für BR 10-14 page 411

Translation:

[manuscript] Krema II

Correspondence register no. 28785/43/1a/Lm

Auschwitz, 14/5/1943

TELEGRAM
URGENT !

Address. Topfwerke Erfurt

Text: Bring thermal and static calculations for chimneys of Krem II and IV Presence
 Chief Engineer Prüfer absolutely necessary immediately

Sig. Bischoff

Transmitted

14/4 (error, should be 5) /1943 1600 hours

Sig. Civilian Employee Schwenker

NB. Telephoned this morning to the Topf works. Chief Engineer Prüfer is on a business trip in
 the Rhineland and has been told by his firm by telephone that he is urgently required in Auschwitz.
 Arrives here Monday [17th May]. Not possible earlier. Requested assurance regarding calcula-
 tions for the two Kremas (that is II and IV).

[signed] Jährling

[manuscript] SS Second Lieutenant Kirschbeck

RECEIVED
 AUSCHWITZ

BU 30/14
 15

Verteiler:
1. Leiter, 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839.

Document 31
IPMO file 274, 30r14, page 40b

Translation:

[manuscript] Crema II
[Error: should be III]

Correspondence register no. 28519/43/13/1.m

Auschwitz. 15/5/1943

URGENT TELEGRAM!

Address: Topfwerke Erfurt

Text: Bring Monday [17th May] rough plan for production of hot water for about 100 showers. Fitting of heating coils or boiler in the waste incinerator at present under construction Krem III or system for using the high temperatures of the flue gases. It would be possible to raise the brickwork of the furnace to take a large tank. Herr Prüfer is requested to bring the relevant drawings on Monday 17/5.

Sup. Bischoff

Transmitted 14/5

Time 1730 hours

Seg. Civilian Employee Schwender

Distribution

1 SPECIAL MEASURES file, POW camp, [manuscript] Kreem III, BW 30a
1 Project leader [Kirschneck's initials]
1 SS Second Lieutenant Kirschneck

On 25th May, Messrs Robert Kochler of Mysłowitz, who had built the collective chimney of Krematorium II, started repairing it by demolishing the lining (= Abbruch der Füller-), an operation that took until 5th June (PMO file BW 30/34, pages 10 and 11).

On Saturday 29th May, Buschoff had Kirschneck send a telegram [Document 63] to engineer Schlnae of Topf, requesting the immediate dispatch of the original drawings for the chimney of Krematorium II, as promised by Prüfer to Messrs Kochler, who were unable to proceed without them. In fact, according to the «Tagelohnzettel/daily pay sheets» [timesheets] compiled weekly by Messrs Kochler, work did not stop, as claimed by Buschoff, but the firm worked on the removal of the damaged lining from 25th May to 5th June without a break: except for Sunday 30th May.

On 1st June, the Banleitung sent a further telegram to Topf, again requesting the drawings promised by Prüfer and claiming that Messrs. Koehler had had to stop work because the drawings were not available. But this forced stoppage still does not appear on the Koehler timesheets.

On 2nd June, Messrs Topf wrote acknowledging receipt of the balancing telegrams of 29th May and 1st June (Document 63). This document, from a Soviet source, is unfortunately incomplete, because the Soviet Commission forgot to photograph the verso and repeated its telegraphed reply, to the effect that Topf needed the original drawings from Koehler in order to obtain the dimensions of the chimney.

From 7th to 16th June, according to the Koehlet «Tagelohnzettel», work on repairing the chimney of Krennaustrich II was interrupted. Koehler and the Bauleitung were waiting for Prüfer's new drawings.

On Thursday, 17th June, the drawings had still not reached Auschwitz, but the Bauleitung nevertheless told Kochler to proceed with the relining of the chimney. Work began that day and was no doubt concerned only with preparation [PMO file BW 20-84, page 9].

On Saturday 9th, in a letter signed by Bischoff, Kirschneck replied to the Topi letter of 2nd June, accusing them of breaking their word. The situation was totally outside the control of the SS, but they did have grounds for complaint. Topi were asking Kohler for drawings of a chimney that they themselves had designed in RM, work for which the Bauleitung had in fact paid them 1760.36 RM. Kohler was angry, but he was not going to let them off so easily, forgetting that Kohler had built the chimney completely following (in theory) its dimensions and materials specifications appearing on the Topi drawing. The Bauleitung, exasperated by the course of events, demanded that argument should stop and that the chimney should be rebuilt, and hence that Topi should keep their promise and send new drawings to Messrs Koehler. This letter had not yet been posted when the long-awaited drawings finally arrived on Monday, 21st June. Rebuilding of the chimney then proceeded without a break (apart from Sundays) until Saturday, 10th July 1940 (R 97, 39a, 39b, 39c).

Kirschneck II was again outstanding at the beginning of the July (see below).

29684 /43/KI./Schul.

TELEGRAM

Anschrift: Topfwerke, Erfurt,

Text: Von Herrn Prüfer versprochene Ausfertigung Zeichnungen
Schornstein Krematorium II für SS. Köhler noch nicht einget-
troffen. Bittet sofortige Zusendung, da Arbeit ein-
gestellt werden müsste.

Verteiler:

Reg. Akt BW 30 Krema II
Bauleitung KOL (Stuf. Janisch)
Bauleitung KL (Stuf. Kirschheck)
Techn. Abt. 2A. Jährling.

Zentralbauleitung Auschwitz

1 - Stabschef.

100 000 000 000 000
ARCHIWUM

BW 30/34

Document 62
(PMD file BW 30/34, page 38)

Translation:

[manuscript] Krema II

29684/43/KI./Schul

[updated. but of 29/5/1943]

TELEGRAM

Address: Topfwerke Erfurt

Text: Construction drawings for Krematorium II chimney promised by Herr Prüfer for Messrs Köhler not yet arrived.
Request immediate dispatch as work had to cease.

Zentralbauleitung Auschwitz
[Buschhoff's initials]
SS Major

Distribution:

File BW 30 Krema II
Bauleitung POW camp (SS Second Lieutenant Janisch)
Bauleitung KL (SS Second Lieutenant Kirschheck)
Technical Section Civilian Employee Jährling

Translation of letter from Messrs J A Topf & Sons

To
Auschwitz Waffen SS and Police
Central Construction Management
Auschwitz, Eastern Upper Silesia

Remitted
7th June 43

(initiated by Borchhoff and Kirschneck)

FRFURT, 28/6/43
bes. 30554/43
Our Division: D IV
Prf.

Subject:
Krematorium II
Chimney

We acknowledge receipt of your telegram:

of 29.5.43 [Sunday]

"Construction drawings for Krematorium II chimney promised by Herr Prüfer for Messrs Köhler not yet arrived. Request immediate dispatch as work has had to cease."

of 1.6/1943 [Tuesday]

"Send immediately drawing requested by telegram for Messrs Köhler concerning chimney Krematorium II. Chief engineer Prüfer fully aware of the purpose of this request. Delay therefore unacceptable. Telegram wherein the drawings have been sent. Chimney construction had to stop work today due absence of drawing"

To which replied today:

"Requested Köhler by telegram Saturday [29th May] supply original drawing of chimney enable us produce construction drawing as we do not know dimensions of the chimney"

Replied in writing

PTO

[Friday] 16/7/1943 Correspondence register no.
[Initiated] Kirschneck

(manuscript) BW 30

J. A. TOPF & SÖHNE

MASCHINENFABRIK, FEUERUNGSTECHNISCHE BAUUNTERNEHMUNG

An die

Zentralbauleitung der

Leffen-SS und Polizei,

Zentralbauamt,

Auschnitt Ost-Ostschloß, i. w. w. w.

Prüfung, den 2.6.43.

7. JUNI 1943

bes. 30554/43

Prüfung, den 2.6.43.

Prüfung, den 2.6.43.

Prüfung, den 2.6.43.

Prüfung, den 2.6.43.

Prüfung, den 2.6.43.

Prüfung, den 2.6.43.

Prüfung, den 2.6.43.

Prüfung, den 2.6.43.

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Prüfung, den 2.6.43.

Prüfung, den 2.6.43.

Prüfung, den 2.6.43.

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Prüfung, den 2.6.43.

Prüfung, den 2.6.43.

Wir bestätigen den Eingang Ihrer Telegramme:

V. 29.5.43.

"Von Herrn Prüfer versprochene Ausführungszeichnungen Schornstein Krematorium II für Firma Köhler noch nicht eingetroffen. Erbitte sofortige Zusendung der Arbeit eingeteilt werden müsste"

V. 1.6.43.

"Telegrafische angeforderte Zeichnung für Firma Köhler betr Schornstein Krematorium II sofort erbeten. Überingenieur Prüfer ist über Zweck der Angelegenheit genau unterrichtet. Säumigkeit daher unentschuldigbar. Rückantwort ob Zeichnungen abgegeben. Schornsteinbauer mussen heute Arbeit wegen Fehlens der Zeichnung einstellen"

Hierauf antworteten wir Ihnen heute:

"Köhler telegrafisch um Zustellung der ursprünglichen Schornsteinzeichnung am Sonnabend ersucht. Aufgrund derer wir erst eine Bauzeichnung anfertigen da uns Abmessungen des Schornsteines nicht bekannt"

Erledigt durch Schreiben

1943 Eff. Nr.

1943 Eff. Nr.

1943 Eff. Nr.

1943 Eff. Nr.

1943 Eff. Nr.

1943 Eff. Nr.

- b. w. -

[The author discovered this letter, which the Auschwitz Museum subsequently archived in the BW 30/43 file, in 1984 in the investigation service of the Warsaw Central Commission for research into Holocaust crimes in Poland. It had been transmitted to the Warsaw Central Commission by the Moscow Prosecutor as part of the incriminating evidence in the trial of the "crematorium architects", Dejaco and Erdt, held in Vienna at the beginning of 1972. THIS LETTER FROM TOPF HAS NOTHING WHATEVER TO DO WITH DEJACO AND ERTL, since when it was written the only members of the Building concerned with the chimneys were SS Second Lieutenant Kirschneck and the civilian employee Jähling. Among the fifty or so German documents sent by the Soviets to the Poles to be passed on to the Anstalts, this letter has no relation with the others (and the communication of part of a drawing of one of the Topf desulfonation ovens installed in the Zentral Sauna is even less comprehensible). This Topf letter makes sense only when compared with the telegram in IPMO file BW 30/43. It then becomes very useful, as it enables us to give a precise date, 29th May 1943, to the undated telegram 29684/43/6/Schul and helps us to follow the process of repairing the chimney of Krematorium II. The letter is obviously incomplete, as the abbreviation "b. w." (bism werden/plusve turn over) shows that it was continued on the verso. It is part of a file of about one hundred documents (bearing the two numbers 82 and 87) held by the Soviets, and only about forty of which are known. It is possible that in 1945, the Soviet Commission, having seized this letter at Auschwitz, forgot in the heat of the moment to photograph the verso, and it is also likely that the Moscow Prosecutor, having chosen this document for reasons known only to him, also omitted to communicate the verso.]

On 24th June 1943 (sometimes given as 25th June [see Document 65, line beginning «53a») the deed of transfer [Document 66] by which the Bauleitung handed over Krematorium III to the camp administration was signed. Despite the difficulties with Veding, who had refused to guarantee the damp-proofing of certain basement areas for two years, the Bauleitung nevertheless gave such an undertaking. The firms who worked on Krematorium III and their areas of responsibility were stated: foundations and walls by Huta; assisted by prisoner labour, roof by Industriebau AG; furnaces and machinery by Topf & Sons, the chimney by Koehler. Other subcontractors, whose contribution was minimal, were not named.

One of the inventories accompanying the deed of transfer, that for the basement [Document 66] contains a «CRIMINAL TACTIC, INDIRECTLY PROVING THE EXISTENCE OF A HOMICIDAL GAS CHAMBER IN LEICHENKELLER I OF KREMATORIUM III». The argument concerning this proof is to be found in Part II, Chapter 8]. The inventory for the ground floor [Document 67] includes, unlike that for Krematorium II, the dissection table, the 3.5-muffle furnaces, the 5 furnace blower motors, the waste incinerator and 5 complete sets of furnace iron [5 Komp., Schützger]. The expenditure report on the construction contract gives the date for the start of work on July 1942, which is too early and should probably be LATE AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER. The price of the building amounted to 554,500 Reichsmark.

On 28th March, following the handover of Krematorium III, the last one to be completed, (the figure calculated the overall throughput for the five Krematoria as 4,756 people in 24 hours, and sent this information to SS General Kammerfer in Berlin [Document 68]. This «official» figure, quite doubted when explaining operations to high-ranking visitors (cf. SS Major Franke-Grecksch's report above, giving a figure of 10,000 in 24 hours), had no basis in practice, and probably has to be divided by two or three to arrive at the true figure. The different visitors, SS, political leaders or others, were obviously anxious to check the figures given by the camp SS, but accepted them as true and went away praising the Auschwitz SS for having found such a splendid solution to the «Jewish question».

[The throughput of Krematorium I, estimated at 340 per day, is a valid figure based on relatively long practice, but the figures for Krematorium II, III, IV and V are purely theoretical, especially those for IV and V which were calculated by extrapolation from the planned figures for Krematorium II and III. The fact is that Krematorium II (and hence also III) was planned as early as 30th October 1941 to incinerate 60 corpses per hour. Obviously the SS had to stick to this figure that they had announced:

60 per hour x 24 hours = 1,440 corpses per day

Any lower throughput would be bad for their promotion prospects or could even be regarded as sabotage. As Ki had 15 muffle and Ki IV and V each had 8 muffle, the throughput for each of these last was calculated as

(1440 ÷ 8)15 = 768 corpses per day.

a purely hypothetical figure based on no practice of any sort.

The real throughput of a type I/III Krematorium was from 1,000 to 1,100 corpses per 24 hours and the maximum for a type IV/V was about 500 a day. The total capacity for the four Krematoria was therefore about 3,000 a day, but in practice the real capacity at Birkenau was even less than it appears at that time (and Krematorium I at the main camp was closed down shortly afterwards). Ki IV was soon permanently shut down; V worked only intermittently. It was working again after repairs to its chimney, and III had just begun operations. These last two could incinerate 2,000 to 2,200 corpses a day, and this was the true incineration capacity at Birkenau from the beginning of July 1943 until April/May 1944. This much lower than advertised throughput is confirmed by the low coke consumption figures for the four Krematoria recorded until the end of November 1943, which was only enough to keep one Krematorium of type II/III in full operation.]

Not directly connected with the construction of Krematorium II and III, but still of some relevance is a Topf letter of 7th July 1943, replying to one of 2nd written by Jähring, justifying the price asked for the two 8-muffle furnaces for Krematorium IV and V. The Bauleitung was probably balking at having to pay for these unusable furnaces covered by a TWO MONTH guarantee that had already expired (Topf letter of 10th April 1943) [see Part II, Chapter 7 «Krematorium IV and V»]. This letter mentioned the taking from the «Mogilev contract» of two 10-4-muffle furnaces, designed by Prüfer, for Krematorium IV and V, which were in fact designed around these furnaces.

[In the author's opinion, the defects in Krematorium IV and V cannot be directly attributed to Prüfer. His technical solutions for the 4-muffle furnace, in which certain metal parts (reasoned) were replaced by firebrick constructions (unreasoned), were rather clever. The 8-muffle furnaces (obtained by waiting until 4-muffle furnaces) raised so well during their adjustment by Topf foreman Willi Kork that the ground around the Krematorium trembled (according to Edy Müller). Prüfer was let down by the poor quality of the refractory materials available in this fourth year of a war that was bleeding Germany white. Hence admonished this indirectly.

«During the wartime shortage of materials the builders were compelled to economize during the construction of crematoria II and IV and V and they were therefore built above ground and were of less solid construction. It soon became apparent, however, that the better construction of these two (two-muffle) four-corpse ovens did not meet the requirements.»

These furnaces, whose design was technically sound (for example, the engineer Martin Kleintert of Topf applied in 1951 to the Patent Office of the Federal Republic of Germany for a patent for a single muffle cremation furnace using the gasolite door designed by Prüfer) and which were carefully constructed, were unable to justify the hopes placed in them simply because they were built with second-rate materials.]

On 17th July, Kirschneck informed Topf that the repair of the Krematorium II chimney lining was completed (and had been since 11th). By comparing the very first Topf drawing of the chimney with later ones, the Bauleitung SS became able to see that usually the Erfurt firm had not taken account of the different thermal expansions produced or the very high temperatures reached. The Bauleitung therefore raised the

question of liability for these defects. They also notified Topf that the underfloor flues from the furnaces to the chimney were deteriorating and, under the terms of the guarantee, should be rapidly repaired or replaced. JPMO file BII 39-34 page 177

On 21st July 1943, Huta sent back to the Bauleitung the original drawings for Krematorium II (which were also used for Ki III) that they had received on 2nd August 1942. The drawings concerned were 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 980, 1173-1174, 1300, 1301, 1311, 1341 and 1541 (drawings 935, 937, 1300 and 1541 having reached them later). Huta also enclosed their own drawings with those of the Bauleitung, i.e. sheets 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of project 7015/IV. This coming and going of drawings is in itself proof that the original drawings of Krematorium II were in no way secret. By contrast, drawing 2003 and the different versions of 2197, where the criminal arrangements were clearly visible, were not shown to Huta, or at least not officially [see these documents in annex].

On 4th August, Topf informed the Bauleitung that the permanent corpse lifts for Krematorium II and III (which were using conventional corpse hosts) were still not ready. Topf's subcontractor could not complete them because official authorization had again been refused. Topf requested the Bauleitung SS to inform their superiors in Berlin so that they could intervene to resolve the situation. Topf explained that the subcontractor had already built a substantial part of the lifts, but feared that if authorization was refused the order would be immediately suspended. JPMO file BII 39-34 page 181

On 6th August, Topf replied to the Bauleitung letter of 17th July, expressing doubt that the underfloor flues should be failing at their own, after the problems with the chimney lining. [It would appear that, despite the evidence of damage to the flues, there was some justification for Topf's surprise. The author would like to point out that, during a conversation with David Olsh, the latter had declared that the problems with the underfloor flues were caused by members of the Sonderkommando trying to immobilize Krematorium II through sabotage. But this «sabotage» damage did not suffice to stop operations, while the spontaneous damage to the chimney had led the Krematorium down for a month and a half. It is difficult to assess the impact of these «manipulations», which consisted of discreetly introducing cold water into the underfloor channels, knowing that the excessively high rates of incineration were bound to cause damage.]

On 9th September, Buschhoff told Kirschneck to send the Topf letter of 4th August concerning the hold up with the permanent lifts for Krematoria II and III to the SS WVHA in Berlin, asking them to rapidly solve this problem. JPMO file BII 39-34 page 181

On Friday 10th September, Prüfer arrived in Auschwitz to confer with the Bauleitung on the settlement of the expenses incurred in the relining of Krematorium II chimney. From the beginning of the talks, the Bauleitung position was clear: Topf and their representative Prüfer were directly responsible for the defects in the chimney. The fact is that after the first, round chimney of Krematorium I, planned and built by

the Bauleitung, was taken out of service, Topf had implied the drawings for a second, of square section. These drawings had served as model for SS Second Lieutenant Dejaco's Drawing Office in producing the drawings of the «Project for a Krematorium» (such as 932, 933, 934 and 980), a building that was in the end to be constructed

in two mirror-image versions at Birkenau. The SS, while admitting their own lack of competence in that area, insofar as they slavishly copied the Topf drawings for the chimneys of Krematoria II and III, nevertheless considered that the Erfurt firm had given them incorrect data, which was the probable cause of the damage to the chimney. After this first meeting, some members of the Bauleitung went with Prüfer to inspect the Birkenau Krematoria. The Topf chief engineers were forced to admit that the complaints about the underfloor flues in the letter of 17th July were justified: «whole sections of the roof [of the flues] were caving in and... the connections between the roof flues and the chimney were in very bad condition». The SS also pointed out to Prüfer that the draught control dampers to the chimney, which had melted due to faulty construction (implied to be Topf's fault) had been repaired entirely satisfactorily by the Bauleitung themselves. As Prüfer's situation was becoming difficult, he threw the blame for the defects in the chimney onto Messrs Koehler, the firm who had built it, claiming that they had used fine mortar instead of refractory mortar. The SS therefore decided to convey the engineer Robert Koehler, the head of this firm, for the next day.

On Saturday 12th September, Koehler swept away Prüfer's accusations, saying the work had been carried out correctly and using the prescribed materials. The discussion then became somewhat heated. The SS mentioned the other arguments previously put forward by Prüfer to explain the collapse of the chimney lining. But Prüfer was a good talker and his «scientific» demonstrations carried the day. The SS nevertheless pointed out that at each visit Prüfer put forward a new reason for the problems with the chimney. As for Robert Koehler, who lived in Mydlowitz, about twenty kilometers from Auschwitz and who thus well-informed about what went on there, in his opinion the real cause of the poor state of the chimney before its repair by his firm was simply the excessive rate of incineration. However, the SS were reluctant to have Prüfer lose face completely: he had compromised himself too much with them - and so they accepted his «technical» reasons, while knowing that Koehler was right. Finally, in order that nobody should feel too upset and in order to maintain good relations, the cost of repairing the chimney, estimated at 5,000 RM, was split three ways: 1/3 for Topf, 1/3 for Koehler (who really was not at fault) and 1/3 for the Bauleitung. And this was the end of the affair.

53.

Zentralbauleitung der Waffen- und
Polizei
Auschwitz O/S Auschwitz, den 14 Juni 1943

Übergebeverhandlung.

Zentralbauleitung der Waffen- und Polizei Auschwitz
Vertreten durch:

Das von der Zentralbauleitung der Waffen- und Polizei Auschwitz er-
richtete - ~~Waffen- und~~ - ~~Polizei~~ - Bauwerk Nr. 30a KGL Krematorium
wurde heute an die Kommandantur (Unterkunftsverwaltung) des K.L.
Auschwitz übergeben.

Beschreibung: siehe Rückseite

Unstehend aufgeführte Räume und die in der Anlage 1 gesondert auf-
geführten Einrichtungsgesamtheiten sind ordnungsgemäß von der Zentral-
bauleitung der Waffen- und Polizei Auschwitz übergeben und von der
Kommandantur (Unterkunftsverwaltung) des K.L. Auschwitz übernommen
worden.

Die Unterkunftsverwaltung hat nachfolgende Wünsche geäußert:

Diese Arbeiten werden auf den schnellsten Wege fertiggestellt.
Übergebeverhandlungen geschlossen und gefertigt:

Aufschluß, den 14 Juni 1943

Der Übergebende: Der Empfangende:
Zentralbauleitung der Waffen- und Kommandantur des K.L. Auschwitz O/S.
Polizei *[Signature]*

SS-Sturmkommandant *[Signature]*

Anlagen:

- 1 Verzeichnis der Einrichtungsgesamtheiten
- 1 Liste der Firmen (Hüttenwerke)
- 1 Verzeichnis über sämtliche an Bau eingesetzten Firmen
mit Angaben der Haft- und Garantienzeiten.
- 1 Bestätigung über Schornsteinbauwerke

Bei Ausführung der Arbeiten in Eigenregie mit Häftlingen kommt eine
Haft- und Garantienzeit nicht zur Anwendung.

Die Mauerarbeiten wurden teils von Firma A.G. Huta,
teils von Häftlingen, Dachstuhl von Industriebau-
A.G. Bielitz, Maschinen und Ofenanlage Firma Topf u. Sohne, Erfurt,
Schornsteinanlage Firma Köhler - Myslewitz.
2 Jahre Garantienzeit.

[The description of Krematorium III appearing on the verso is not known, the
Moscow Prosecutor having omitted to photograph and transcribe the verso]

Waffen SS and Police
Central Construction Management
Auschwitz

Auschwitz, 24th June 1943

DEED OF TRANSFER

Auschwitz Waffen SS and Police Central Construction Management
Represented by:

Werkzeug 30a of the POW camp, Krematorium III built - repaired - modified - by the Auschwitz
Waffen SS and Police Central Construction Management has this day been handed over to the
Kommandantur (Accommodation Administration) of KL Auschwitz

Description: see verso

The surrounding areas and the equipment installed, indicated separately in annex 1, have been
duly handed over by the Auschwitz Waffen SS and Police Central Construction Management and
taken over by the Kommandantur (Accommodation Administration) of KL Auschwitz.

The Accommodation Administration expressed the following wishes:

This work was completed by the quickest method possible.

Deed of transfer completed and closed

Auschwitz, 24th June 1943

The transferer
Waffen SS and Police
Central Construction Management
Auschwitz, Upper Silesia

The transferee
KL Auschwitz Kommandantur
Auschwitz Garrison Administration
Buildings operation service

[signed Buchhoff]
SS Major

[Two illegible signatures]
SS Sergeant-Major SS Sgt

[Initialed by Kirschneck]
ANNEXES:

- 1 inventory of equipment
- 1 set of construction drawings (scale 1:200)
- 1 list of all firms having participated in
construction, with indication of length of
liability and guarantee
- 1 certificate of acceptance for the chimney

Since the work was carried out on own account using prisoners, the length of liability and
guarantee is inapplicable.

Bricklaying and concreting was done partly by Messrs Huta, partly by prisoners, the roofing
by Industriehau A G of Bielitz, machinery and furnace installation by Messrs Topf & Sons
of Erfurt, construction of the chimney by Messrs Köhler of Myslewitz. 2 year guarantee.

31590/30./50.-

20. Juni 1943

Betr.: Fertigstellung d. Krematoriums III

B. Nr. 10 110

B. Nr. 1 -/-

an den
SS-Wirtschafts-Verwaltungs-
amt, a. d. Hauptstadt
SS-Präsidenten u. Generalmajor
Herrn K. u. a. i. s. r.
Berlin - Reichs-Kriegs- u. wehr-
amt V am Reichs-Tag - 123

Melde die Fertigstellung des Krematoriums III mit dem
20. 6. 1943. Mitin die weiteren befohlenen Krematorium fertig-
stellung.

1. Status der vorhandenen Krematoriumsbei einer 24 stündigen Arbeitszeit:

<u>1.) Altes Krematorium I</u>		
3 x 2 Kesselräume	340	Personen
<u>2.) Neues Krematorium I, K. G. L. II</u>		
3 x 3 Kesselräume	1440	Personen
<u>3.) Neues Krematorium III</u>		
3 x 3 Kesselräume	1440	Personen
<u>4.) Neues Krematorium IV</u>		
6 Kesselräume	760	Personen
<u>5.) Neues Krematorium V</u>		
6 Kesselräume	760	Personen

Insges. bei 24 stündiger Arbeitszeit 4 756 Personen

Vorteiler:
alt - J. Meich
" - Kirschner
Registrierer K. G. L. BW. 30

Der Leiter der Contr. Abteilung
der Waffen-SS und Polizei, a. d. i. s. r.

Gest.: Fährling

SS-Stabschef

Die wichtigste der Arbeit: (Hut)

On Monday 13th September, Kirschneck wrote up a summary of the sometimes heated discussions of 10th and 11th [Document 69 and 68a]. In this summary he formally stated that PRÜFER HAD BEEN CONSULTANT FOR THE WHOLE INSTALLATION IN SUMMER 1942 (i.e. for the four new Krematoriums). This was already apparent from previous correspondence, but had never been spelled out so clearly before. Despite the «amicable arrangement» that had been arrived at, i.e. equal division of the cost of repairing the chimney between the three parties, a solution that was in fact to Prüfer's advantage, the report makes it clear that relations between Prüfer and the Bauleitung, which had been excellent in the second half of 1942, had deteriorated and were becoming rather bad. The SS were blaming him for the building of two useless Krematoriums (a waste of 400,000 RM) and for the problems with the chimney of Krematorium II.

On 28th September, Kirschneck sent a registered letter to Messrs Robert Kiebler, announcing that the cost of repairing the lining of the chimney was fast amounting to 4,500 RM, so that the firm owed 1,500 RM (which meant that Kiebler had worked on this job simply for the glory, their profit having gone up in smoke) and that the final account would be sent shortly. In addition, the SS informed Kiebler that the Bauleitung had once again urgently requested the latest drawing of the chimney (probably concerned with the consolidation or retuning of the underfloor flues) which Topf had been promising to dispatch without fail for TWO MONTHS already (since the end of July 1943) [PHO] Nr. BW 30-34 page 10]

[What happened after that, i.e. whether or not the repairs were carried out, and if so whether by Topf or Kiebler, is not known. If it was done, the job would have been extremely difficult and unpleasant, for the bricklayers would have had to work lying down in flues 50 cm wide and 70 cm high, which seems to be at the limits of the possible. Alternatively, the flues could have been reached from above, but this would have meant demolishing one third of the concrete floor of the ground floor of the Krematorium, which does not seem to have been done. In any event, if the work was done, it would have been in October 1943 and the furnaces would have had to be shut down for a considerable time. So in the second half of 1943, Krematorium II was out of service for two to three months for sundry repairs. As for the Krematorium III chimney, of the same design as that of Kr II, it is not known whether similar problems were encountered, also causing that Krematorium to be shut down for a while, as the available files have nothing to say on the subject. The sudden and permanent shutdown of Krematorium IV, the gradual shutdown of V and the temporary shutdown of II, are again in line with the coke delivery figures for the four Krematoriums from March to the end of October 1943, which indicate an average run only just sufficient to keep one Krematorium of type I/III in full operation.]

In late September and early October 1943, Hut produced the regularization drawings for Krematorium II and III. The first, sheet 12 (not known today), was drawn on 20th September, then followed on 21st 13a, 23rd 14a, 24th 15 and finally, on 30th October, 16a [see these drawings in annex]

On 2nd November 1943, Hut sent the Bauleitung the final accounts for their work on Krematorium II and III. The next day, they sent a registered package to complement these accounts, containing three copies of more of their drawings for the two buildings: sheets 13, 14, 15 and 16 of project 109/17015/IV.

On 6th November, following a conversation between Camp Commandant Hoess and Bischoff (who had just been appointed Head of the Silesian Waffen SS and Police Construction Inspectorate and replaced as head of the Auschwitz Bauleitung by SS Lieutenant Werner Johane, a building technician), a letter was written for the Bauleitung by SS Sergeant Kamaun (responsible for gardening and a photographer), requesting SS Major Joachim Caesar, head of the agricultural section of the camp, to supply various trees to surround Krematorium II and III (referred to as I and II) [Document 78]. This ring of greenery was intended more to make the Krematoriums look agreeable than to camouflage them, as was mistakenly thought for a long time. Judging by what was actually planned (as against the 300 trees and 500 bushes planned for each Krematorium) and where it was planted, half way between the buildings and the surrounding barbed wire fences [Document 71], the aim was clearly more to reanimate future victims with a calm and decor that to try to hide a criminal activity known throughout the camp. What is more, because of a lack of plants, the implementation of the plan was very late (1944) and was limited to a very thin ring, scarcely visible [Document 72] and incomplete [Document 73], with small trees (the diameter of whose trunks was no more than five centimetres in 1945 [Document 71]) and the creation of a formal garden in the north yard of Krematorium II, perfectly visible on the aerial photograph of 25th August 1944 and found intact at the Liberation [Document 74].

[This letter, often cited by traditional historians, is the basis of the myth of the «Tarnung/camouflage» of the Krematoriums. Thanks to the concept of «camouflage» the means by which the most criminal aspect of the Third Reich was implemented, certain historians seem to have considered themselves authorized to make quite unjustifiable generalizations. The use of «camouflage» enabled them to replace actual knowledge by certainty and brought dangerous by confused thinking. A suspect installation was «criminalized» by the introduction of «camouflages». A shower room was or a disinfection gas chamber could be a camouflaged homicidal gas chamber. If the documents found proved that the suspect installation was in fact used normally for its stated purpose, then the second aspect of «camouflages» came into play, «coding», an indispensable complement in certain writings. The document mentioning normal use, according to this argument, must be an «code», because it referred to a «camouflaged» place. Thus the word «Leichenkeller 1» [corpse cellar 1] in Birkenau Krematorium II and III «encoded» the homicidal gas chamber function, and «Leichenkeller 2» encoded the undressing room function (note wonders what «Leichenkeller 3» would have encoded, if, unfortunately, it had not been split up into perfectly clearly designated rooms). This historical «methodology», all the more infantile because it was ignored, stood in the way of any objective research, because being ignorant of the chronological and architectural evolution or even the practical arrangement of the premises, it had taken the easy way out. The theory of «camouflage-coding» was further reinforced by a third concept, the last of the trilogy, that of «secrets», which made it possible to hide gaps in one's own knowledge by blaming the «secrets» supposedly practiced by three to be denounced. In fact the extermination of the Jews was such an open secret that in 1943-44, train passengers going through Auschwitz station in daytime crowded to the windows to better see where the Jews were being liquidated, and at night they saw Birkenau brilliantly lit by the thousand lamps of its perimeter fence. What they did not know, and this was the only «secret», was the method used by the SS

K3. 1. 1. 36132/47

Anschluß, den 13.9.1945.

 PARTIENREICHES DEUTSCHES
 ARCHIVUM

BW 30/25

Aktionen

Betreff: Neupruefung über Kostenübernahme, die durch die Heranstellung des schadhaften Bohernsteins in Kramatorium II KKL Nr. 50 entstehend sind.

Am Freitag, den 10.9.1945 sprach bei der hiesigen Mantelstelle als Vertreter der Firma Topf & Söhne, Erfurt, Herr Oberingenieur Prüfer zweite Klärung des unter betreff. Sachverhalt.

Von Seiten der Zentralbauleitung wurde der Standpunkt vertreten, daß der Schaden des Bohernsteins durch vor allem auf die falsche Entwurf bzw. Ausführungsberatungen durch die Fa. Topf & Söhne zurückzuführen ist. Herr Oberingenieur Prüfer war im Jahre 1942 der Berater der gesamten Anlage und erklärte, daß St. 5-Unterstaufführer (P) Krtel, 5-Unterstaufführer (P) Dejeune, sowie 5-Unterstaufführer (V) Jankisch, daß die Kramatorien nach dem von Fa. Topf & Söhne gelieferten Zeichnungen ausgeführt werden sollten. Betreffs der Bohernsteine sollte einseitig der Entwurf des Bohernsteinplanes für das Kramatorium I im Abstande, andererseits die Abmessungen der einzelnen Bohernsteinabteile nach den veranschauigten Plänen der Fa. Topf & Söhne, ausgeführt werden. Dieser Entwurf zeigt eine Mantelhöhe von 12 cm, der Mantelabstand ist bis zu 6 m Höhe orange, wobei allen Stücken Bohernsteinwerk gekennzeichnet. Das Mantelwerk ist rot gestrichelt, bedeutet also Stielwerk.

Nach einer anschließenden Besichtigung und Rücksprache mit dem Ober-Gesetz der Kramatorien wurde festgestellt, daß nicht wie im Schreiben vom 4.8.1943/Beaufh. h. e. / DIV/22, das Mafallen von Seiten der Bauherrschaft ein Irrtum oder eine Verwechslung war, sondern, daß tatsächlich wie im Schreiben der Bauleitung vom 17.7.1945 erwähnt wird, ganze Stielteile eingeleitet und auch die Ausschlüsse der Heizkanäle an den Bohernstein sehr schadhafte waren.

Bei dieser Gelegenheit wurde auch festgestellt, daß alle Bohernsteine aus Regulator des Lufttrages durch falschen Kissen

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- 2 -

Dokument 69

abgeschleusen und wurden diese Mängel neuhafter auf Grund eigener Erfahrung beseitigen und gewähren derzeit einwandfreies funktionieren. Herr Oberingenieur Prüfer bezeichnete diesmal als Grund der Mantelschadhaftheit, die Ausführung des Mantelwerkes, mittels Kalkstrich statt Bohernstein, als auch Fehlerhaftigkeit in der statischen Berechnung.

Dem gegenüber wurde in der tags darauf folgenden Rücksprache mit Herrn Ingenieur Kochler, der dieses Bohernstein nach den Zeichnungen der Fa. Topf & Söhne ausführte, daß der Mantel einwandfrei von unten bis zum oberen Ende mit Bohernstein gemaßert wurde. Herr Oberingenieur Prüfer wird aufmerksam gemacht, daß er bei jedem seiner stützfindenden Besuche für die Ursachen des Einstürzens des Bohernsteins eine andere Begründung vorgebrachte.

Bei einem vorletzten Besuch erklärte sich, daß das Kommando, die großen Spannungen, die durch einseitige Belastung einzelner Stiele entstanden, denen im Entwurf nicht Rechnung getragen wurde, als Ursache.

Nach Ansicht der Zentralbauleitung dürfte dies auch tatsächlich die Hauptursache sein und wurde dem in dem von Fa. Topf & Söhne, demnach Jorgis, getragen, in den der Mantel durch die veranschauigten Ausschlüsse des Bohernsteins verschiedenartige Öffnungen gehalten werden, und die einzelnen Mantelteile ineinander verschleibt gehalten werden.

Herr Ingenieur Kochler erklärte in der bereits erwähnten Rücksprache, daß die Überbelastung der Bohernsteinanlage die wesentlichste Ursache für die Schadhaftheit war.

Nachdem sich die Schuldfrage nicht restlos klären ließ, erklärte Herr Ingenieur Kochler, von dem Fa. Robert Kochler, Myslowitz und Herr Oberingenieur Prüfer für die Fa. Topf & Söhne (verhältnissmäßig) Rücksprache mit seinem Chef) einverstanden, je 1/3 der neu angefallenen Gesamtkosten zu übernehmen, falls auch ihrerseits die Bauleitung bereit ist, einen Teil der Kosten zu übernehmen. Die Gesamtkosten wurden überschlägig mit RM 5 000,- beziffert.

Es soll mit dieser Regelung die Heranstellung des Bohernsteins in Kramatorium II KKL Nr. 50 endgültig geklärt sein.

Gelesen und genehmigt:

5-Unterstaufführer (P)

5-Unterstaufführer.

 PARTIENREICHES DEUTSCHES
 ARCHIVUM

BW 30/25

Translation: (the corrections are not translated)

KJ/Lel. 36132/43

Auschwitz, [Monday] 13/9/1943

Summary Record

Subject: Meeting concerning the imputation of the costs incurred in having to replace the defective lining of the chimney of Krematorium II, POW camp BW 30

On Friday, 10/9/1943, Herr chief engineer Prüfer, as the representative of Messrs Topf & Sons of Erfurt, consulted with this service [Bauleitung] to clarify the situation with regard to the subject stated.

The Zentralbauleitung maintained the position that the damage to the chimney lining was that above all to the incorrect drawings and instructions furnished by Messrs Topf & Sons. Herr chief engineer Prüfer was in 1942 the consultant for the whole installation and he declared at the time to SS Second Lieutenants (Specialists) Eitel (Eitel), Dejaco and Jährsch [Jähresch] that the Krematorium should be built according to the drawings provided by Messrs Topf. As for the chimneys, they should be built according to the project drawing for the chimney for Krematorium I in the main camp on the one hand and the measurements and instructions for the individual parts of the chimney appearing on the above-mentioned drawings provided by Messrs Topf & Sons. One of these drawings shows a lining thickness of 12 cm. The lining itself is shown to a height of 6 m in orange, as is all the other refractory brickwork. The brickwork supporting the lining is shown in red, meaning ordinary bricks. [See drawing 933(-934)] in annex, where the lining of the chimney, of a colour different from the pink walls, should be orange, which it is very faintly on the original in the PMO archives].

During a subsequent inspection and conversation with the Chief Capo of the Krematorium, it was noted that the collapse of part of the flues was not error or confusion, as [claimed] in the letter of 6/8/1943 comes. reg. no. h.e.a./D IV/Prf., but in fact as stated in the Bauleitung letter of 17/7/1943, whole sections of the roof [of the flues] were caving in and the connections between the hot flues and the chimney were in very bad condition.

On this occasion it was also established that all the draught adjustment dampers had melted due to a fault in construction, but this fault had been eliminated in the light of our own experience and now

Translation: (the corrections are not translated)

the system worked perfectly. Herr chief engineer Prüfer this time designated the reason for the damage as the lining as being that the brickwork was bonded with lime mortar instead of refractory mortar, and also errors in the static calculations.

In reply to this, in the conversation on the following day [Saturday 12th September] with Herr engineer Koehler, who built this chimney according to the Topf & Sons drawings, stated that the lining was completely built with refractory mortar from the bottom to the top.

It was pointed out to Herr chief engineer Prüfer that with each visit he brought a new explanation for the reasons for the collapse of the chimney lining.

During his last visit but one, in the presence of the Commandant, he gave as the reason the great stresses caused by firing individual furnaces [while leaving the others cold], which was not taken into account in the plans.

In the opinion of the Zentralbauleitung, this was in fact probably the main reason, and would be taken into account in the new Topf & Sons plans, in which the different rates of expansion of different parts of the lining would be allowed for by having openings such that they could slide with respect to one another.

Herr engineer Koehler declared during this conversation that the overloading of the chimney installation was the most important cause of the damage.

Since it had not been possible to completely settle the question of liability, Herr engineer Koehler for Messrs Robert Koehler, Myslowitz and Herr chief engineer Prüfer for Messrs Topf & Sons (subject to consultation with his superior) declared their agreement, in the interests of further good relations, to each assume 1/3 of the total extra cost, provided that for its part the Bauleitung was prepared to assume a similar sum. This total cost was provisionally estimated at 5,000 RM.

With this settlement, the reconstruction of the chimney lining in Krematorium II, POW camp BW 30, is considered to be finally settled.

Read and approved

SS Second Lieutenant (Specialist)

SS Major

6. November 1943.

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39533/43/Kaw/J.

Befehl: Abgabe von Pflanzmaterial für die Anlage eines Grünstreifs für die Krematorien I und II im KGL.

Ursache: Unterordnung zwischen den Lagerkommandanten H-Obersturmbeführer H. Hoes und H-Obersturmbeführer H. Hoes und H-Obersturmbeführer H. Hoes.

Anlage: - - -

Am dem
Leiter der Landwirtschaftlichen Abteilung
H-Obersturmbeführer (P) Hoes
in K.L. Auschwitz G/S.

auf Grund dieser Anordnung, der Lagerkommandanten H-Obersturmbeführer H. Hoes sollen die Krematorien I und II im KGL mit einem Grünstreifen versehen. Abschluß zum Lager hin vernehmlich zu setzen.

Zur Durchführung dieser Anordnung wird folgendes Pflanzmaterial aus dem Bestände der Lagerkommandanten H-Obersturmbeführer H. Hoes abzugeben:

200 Stück Laubholz	1/2 - 2 m hoch
100 " Laubholz	1/2 - 1 m hoch
100 " Fichten	1/2 - 1 m hoch
1000 " verschiedene	1/2 - 1 m hoch

aus Baumgärtchenbeständen.

Es wird bei der Ausführung der Anordnung die Pflanzmaterialien gelassen.

Der Lagerkommandant H. Hoes
der Pflanzmaterialien

H-Obersturmbeführer H. Hoes

Verteiler:

- 1 H-Obersturmbeführer (P) Hoes
- 1 H-Obersturmbeführer, Bischoff
- 1 Registratur
- 1 H-Obersturmbeführer, Kammann

Document 70

(PMO file 89, 10/14, page 14 and 1 claim 12 of the Hoes Trial, annex 7)

Translation:

6th November 1943

39533/43/Kaw/J

Subject: Delivery of plant material for the establishment of a ring of greenery for Krematorien I [II] and II [III] in the POW camp.

Reference: Conversation between Camp Commandant SS Lieutenant Colonel Hoes and SS Major Bischoff

Enclosure: -

Head of the Agricultural Service
SS Major (Specialist) Caesar
K.L. Auschwitz, Upper Silesia

By order of Camp Commandant SS Lieutenant Colonel Hoes, Krematorien I [II] and II [III] in the POW camp are to be provided with a ring of greenery to constitute a natural separation from the rest of the camp.

To implement this measure, the following plant material is necessary, to be taken from forestry stocks

200	deciduous trees 3 - 5 m high
100	deciduous trees 1 1/2 - 4 m high
300	spruce and pine trees 1 1/2 - 4 m high
and 1000	assorted bushes 1 - 2 1/2 m high

from the nurseries.

You are requested to make these plants available to us.

Head of the Auschwitz Waffen SS and Police
Central Construction Management
[initials] Jothann
SS Lieutenant (Specialist)

Distribution:

- 1 SS Second Lieutenant (S) Dejaco
- 1 SS Major Bischoff
- 1 Registratur
- 1 SS Sergeant Kammann

Krematorium II and III were never camouflaged, in the first place because the actual process of extermination went on inside their walls. Dr. Mengele's team, for example, who lived in the hospital sector, B III, were able to see through the barred wire fence perfectly well, and regularly until the end of 1944, columns of a few hundred to a thousand people enter the grounds of Krematorium III and disappear into one of its underground annexes and a few hours later they would see the chimney belching smoke and flame. If there had been some kind of hedge behind the barred wire, they would not have been able to observe this so external sign of the extermination process. However, there was one particular form of camouflage put in place, **not in side the buildings, but what went on around them**. This was taken by a meeting at SS held at 1800 hours on 14th June 1944 (summary record no. 176544, Correspondence register no. 835344/6/KA). In this summary, under item 16, the expression «*forming der Krematoriumsring*» of the Krematoriums was used, but this «*camouflage*», or more correctly in this case «*masking*», was in no way necessary to hide, not the building itself, but the open air crematorium pits dug behind Krematorium V. Krematorium IV was given a similar screen even though it was out of use and had no air crematorium pits. The reason is not known, except for a rather surprising desire for symmetry with Kt V (Document 78). This screen had to be placed against the barred wire, and rush matting was envisaged but it was actually done using branches cut from the adjacent wood and placed in front of or behind the barred wire, probably in July 1944. Following the Sonderaktion results of October 1944, Krematorium IV was dismantled and the surrounding barred wire and screen also. In January 1945, all that remained in this «*camouflage*» was a hedge in the south of Krematorium V, along the ring road.]



Document 71
[Photograph no. 1]

South-eastern view of the ruin of Krematorium III after the Liberation in 1945 photographed from a watchtower across the ramp. The sentence of Pohl to show the dismantling of the building had not been completed when the SS blew up the western part of the structure on 28th January 1945. The present state of the site is not as shown in the photo: on all the bricks, those of the crematorium and the others, have been removed, as have the remains of the external walls visible on the photo. The pile of logs (left foreground) is left by Dr. Mengele in the clearing of Krematorium III, in order to fire the furnace when there is no use. Between the ruins of the building and the barred wire fence, is the ring of graves around Krematorium III. The size and location of the photo proves beyond any doubt that the crematorium could not have been in camouflage, but was rather in study the vice versa process.

PHOTOS ARE
REVERSED



Document 72
[Photo 19 of Serge Blassat's «*Les camps de la mort*»]

Last view of the Barbiessa ramp in May or June 1944 showing the arrival of a group of Hungarian Jews. In the background Krematorium II with its red brick chimney, very clearly visible. Seventeen months after the order for «*a ring of graves*» (photo 1) camp Commandant Ilsema, not a single tree can be seen and between the points supporting the barred wire we can even make out the windows of the prisoners' rest rooms and the door of the shower camp. Where is the «*camouflage*»?

At the end of 1943, according to Henry Tanber's deposition, the gas chamber (Leichenkeller 1) of Krematorium II was divided into two chambers by building a wall across the middle. This modification is not mentioned in any handwriting document, and it was probably made under the responsibility of the Krematorium administration. Two other former prisoners confirmed this division into two, without realizing it, by describing what they saw in 1944. In «*Erinnerungen an den Holocaust*» (page 161), Dr Paul Biesel relates that in Krematorium II «*the gas chambers proper [are] two in number*» and «*in the middle of these, there descend from the roof two mesh tubes with external valves, used to emit the gases*». In «*Camp de Concentration*» (page 162), Dr Michel Sirochka (provided the reference for this passage) is correct and that the doctor is in fact the author) also describes Leichenkeller 1 of Krematorium II «*A big room followed on from the first [undressing room], approximately 10 [m] in fact 15] metres long, 6 or 7 metres wide and 5 or 6 [2.5 m] in fact 15] metres high. In the upper part, on the centre line of its longer dimensions, there were two latrine-like, chimney-like structures, with an opening outside the roof through which the gases arrived and spread throughout the room through the lattice of the tubes*». In saying that the gas chambers of Krematorium II had only TWO chimneys for the introduction of Zyklon B, instead of FOUR these witnesses confirm that the original gas chamber had been divided in two, even though they did not know this. At the end of 1943, splitting the 2100 m² of Leichenkeller 1 into two chambers of 105 m² was not simply partitioning, but was a reduction in capacity. The partition in a central wall, with a communicating door, gas-tight or not, would necessarily have reduced the rate at which the gases could be extracted from Leichenkeller 1. There would on the face of it be an advantage to the SS in this deliberate slowing of the extermination process, but in fact there was a change in the method of operation, so

that less victims were gassed at one time, thus less gas chamber space required. The old formula of 2,000 at a time had gone out of fashion and the maximum size of a batch became 1,000. In the author's opinion, there could be only two possible explanations for such a modification: either the number of people to be gassed turned out to be smaller than anticipated, or the gassing of large batches meant prolonged overloading of the crematorium furnaces and led to frequent breakdowns, thus reducing the overall efficiency of the Krematorien. By limiting the capacity of Leichenkeller I to 1,000 people, the SS optimized their incineration installation by regulating it to avoid the problems brought about by "accelerated" working. The author considers that this new formula, based on experience, made it possible to improve the incineration throughout of the Krematorien. The same principle was applied in May 1944 in Krematorium V, where an internal wall was built to create a gas chamber of about 12 m² in order to be able to "store" small groups using a minimum of Zyklon-B. It is not known whether Leichenkeller I of Krematorium III was divided in a similar way, but this would seem logical. At the present time, one of the few opportunities that exist for verifying this would be to study ALL of David Olère's sketches, assuming that somewhere he had drawn from memory the interior of the gas chamber of Krematorium III. However, this research is not possible at the moment, because fifty of Olère's sketches (about half of his historical production) are not at present available to the public.

[On 19th December 1943, most probably, Hinta gave the new head of the Bauleitung, SS Lieutenant Iohann, virtually all their original drawings for Krematorien II and III, in order to finalize business concerning these two buildings. This letter, actually dated 1944 and cited as such in the annexes, is much more likely, in the logical succession of the correspondence exchanged, to date from 1943, its writer having somewhere written, upon the arrival of the new year. Chronologically, the date of 19th December 1943 is more plausible than 19th December 1944. In this case, the author's comments on this letter in the annexes are mistaken, because they are too "dramatized". They are nevertheless left uncorrected, because it is impossible to actually prove that the letter was written in 1943 as there is no supporting documentary evidence.]

From the end of 1943 until April 1944, Krematorien II and III functioned regularly, but not at full capacity, in accordance with the numbers of people found unfit for work. Krematorien IV and V were not of service and not required anyway. In anticipation of the arrival of the Hungarian Jews, the SS Krematorium Administration had the FOUR buildings gradually made ready for service. On 13th April, the DAW metalworking shop received an order (no. 1483) for the repair of 20 furnace doors and for 10 hinges for Krematorien I [II] and II [III]. This work was completed on 17TH JULY 1944 [a date that remains inexplicable because impossible to check in the original file]. On 5th May, still for Krematorien II and III, the metalworking shop completed 40 nuts and bolts produced according to a sketch attached to an order of 27th April (no. 1513). Finally, on 14 June, this shop received an order (no. 1600) for the repair of 30 furnace doors for Krematorien III [IV] and IV [V] and for 4 hinges. This order, marked urgent, was completed on 2th June [this order from the SS administration raises the question of its late date with respect to the "resettlement" of the Hungarian Jews and the number of doors is a mystery, as it seems excessive and is not a multiple of 8. We have no documents to elucidate



Document 76
[PMO arg. no. 33.154-48]

In the centre, Jan Sehn, flying in the wind, in the Examenung Judge, Jan Sehn, accompanied by various officials, walking in 1945 between the «toilet garden» (behind there) and the undressing room (Leichenkeller 21) in the north yard of Krematorium II. In front of the western access stairway Jan Sehn was following exactly the same route as those found and his work, from the entrance gate (in the background on the right) to the stairs down to the undressing room. In the middle ground is the famous garden which, according to the «reconstruction» should not have been intact if the SS had really gassed people, as it would have been trampled out of existence by the crowd in the «quadrangle». It is nevertheless preserved by people carrying every few round of barrels in an apparently laughable manner. In fact victims are effective.



Document 75
[PMO arg. no. 33.154-49]

Western access stairway to the undressing room (Leichenkeller 21) of Krematorium II in 1945. In the centre - standing on the top step is the Examenung Judge, Jan Sehn. In the background - the barrel was later (in the left) is a post supporting three barrels of barrel water to prevent any «leakage» away towards the southern grounds of the Krematorium. There is no ring of greenery here.



Chambres à gaz et fours crématoires IV et V, le 13 septembre 1944.

véhicules
«loot storage» area
The «Birchwood»
véhicules
entrepôt de «butin»
le «Bois de bouleaux»

Document 75
[Le Monde Jui. No. 97, page 14]

either problem). After their revision, an operation that may be considered routine, Krematorium II and III fulfilled their role perfectly from May to July 1944. As for Krematorium IV and V, we have no precise information about their reactivation. According to Sonderkommando and SS accounts and deposition concerning the forest Krematoriums, which are confused and divergent on this point, the following situations emerge. Krematorium IV either functioned again for a very short time, a few days to a few weeks, before being closed down for good, or was not restarted at all and served as accommodation for about 700 Sonderkommando men, who occupied ALL the available space in the building, (including the gas chambers, but not the furnace room and its annexes, which were probably reserved for the Capos). The furnaces of Krematorium V, not so badly damaged as those of Kr IV, either worked at such a slow rate that open air incineration ditches had to be rapidly dug behind the gas chambers in order to compensate for their poor throughput, or, knowing in advance that the Krematorium V furnaces would be unable to operate at the pace required for the future, the SS decided to replace them with five small incineration ditches and to excavate Bunker 2, under the designation Bunker V, which also had an incineration ditch. There it still offers a possibility, in view of this report of early June, i.e. that Krematorium IV and V were not repaired by the end of April 1944 and the SS had the five incineration ditches dug and Bunker 2/V reactivated right away. It is possible that, overwhelmed by the mass arrivals of Hungarian convoys in May, they tried at the beginning of June to rapidly reactivate Krematorium IV and V in order to increase incineration capacity at Birkenau. These cursory repairs, made *ad extrême*, seem to have succeeded in the case of Kr V, which worked more or less correctly until January 1945, but turned out to be inadequate in the case of Kr IV, whose furnaces and chimney needed to be completely rebuilt.

Between May and the beginning of July 1944, some 200,000 to 250,000 Hungarian Jews were annihilated in the gas chambers and incineration furnaces of Krematorium II and III, the gas chamber and five incineration ditches of Krematorium V, and the gas chamber (the original lateral walls dividing the building into four small gas chambers had been removed, leaving a single chamber of external dimension 7 m by 15 m) of Bunker 2/V and its incineration ditch of 30 m² area. According to the accounts of former prisoners, this was the darkest and most depressing period in Birkenau, at the time when the Liberation of Europe was beginning. The most palpable sign of this dismal period, engraved on the memory of survivors, was four black columns of smoke, belched forth 24 hours a day by the Krematoriums. This picture, of course, cannot be taken entirely at face value, because two of the Krematoriums were out of service and aerial photographs taken during this period show no trace of smoke. An argument has grown up over the discrepancy between the memory of survivors and the indisputable evidence of the aerial photos. Even though this can now be explained by the gaps between the arrival of convoys, historians have been extraordinarily unlucky in that the American reconnaissance aircraft flew over Auschwitz-Birkenau precisely on days when nothing was happening or when the cremation of the last batch had finished. On the other hand, it is easier to explain the four columns of smoke, despite the fact that two of the four Krematoriums were not working. The chimneys of Krematorium II and III were visible from almost all over the Birkenau camp and everywhere could see when they were smoking. In the case of Kr V, practically surrounded by the birch wood and hence invisible to most of the prisoners, the incineration ditches behind it

burned regularly, giving the impression that the furnaces were working. As for Kr IV, partly hidden by a screen of trees, an observer within the limits of B.III (and most of the survivors are in this category) could see the smoke coming from the incineration ditch of Bunker 2/V, located 400 m to the west of Krematorium IV and on the same line of sight, and had the impression it was coming from the Krematorium.

On 6th June 1944, the Bauleitung produced drawing 4054, on which the «Jewish ramps» where the convoys arrived was transformed into a real station, an installation that could be called the «extermination station» [Document 76]. This version produced by the Bauleitung Drawing Office is more realistic than the plan mentioned by Hees of a huge station covering the four Krematoriums, for it includes only Krematorium II and III, the only ones that were actually working. [It should be pointed out that the only piece of «camouflage» found on any of the known Bauleitung drawings appears here, where «Gemütschale/ Vegetabile shed» probably stands for «Effektschale/Effects shed»].

On 26th June 1944, the US Air Force photographed the entire Auschwitz-Birkenau-Monowitz complex from a height of 30,000 feet [Document 77]. An enlargement [Document 78] reveals no activity in the four Krematoriums, which is perfectly natural, because the last transport of Hungarian Jews from Węgieł had arrived on 18th June and the next did not arrive at Birkenau until 28th June.

On 25th August 1944, the US Air Force photographed, in clear weather, part of the Birkenau camp [B I], the ramp and Krematorium II and III, from a probable height of about 3,000 feet [Document 79]. No incineration activity can be detected in the Krematoriums, and yet the previous day five transports had arrived in the camp: three from Łódź, one from Węgieł (Hungary) and one from Boynslav (Soviet Union). The total number of deportees in these five convoys is not known, but the number selected for work is: those from Łódź 10, 7, and 222; from Hungary 28 and from the Soviet Union 2. A total of 269 judged fit for work. Assuming that IN THE WORST CASE 10% of the total were pronounced fit, the total for the five convoys would be in the order of 2,700 people. The incineration of 2,400 or 2,500 corpses in Krematorium II and III and the ditches of Krematorium V and Bunker 2/V was a matter of routine, compatible with the real throughput of the installations, and could have been completed by the time the photograph was taken, before midday on 25th August. (It should be noted that the incineration ditches were not photographed, so we do not know whether they were operating or not.)

On 13th September 1944, Krematorium IV and V were photographed by an American aircraft [Document 80], and no trace of smoke can be seen. No convoy had arrived at Birkenau that day, and only the 300 Jewish children of a transport from Kovno had been gassed the previous day.

After the Sonderkommando revolt of 7th October 1944, Krematorium IV, which was set on fire during the uprising, was completely demolished except for the concrete floor, which remained in place.

On 26th November 1944, following the publication in American newspapers of the «War Refugee Board» report on the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp, Himmler gave the order, probably verbal (no written trace ever having been found) to completely demolish Krematorium II and III.

THE USE OF THE KREMATORIEN FOR THE «RESETTELEMENT» OF JEWS UNFIT FOR WORK

After selection at the Jewish ramp at Auschwitz station [the new siding on the very center of the Birkenau camp was not completed until May 1944, for the arrival of the Hungarian transports], groups of 1,000 or 1,500 classified as «unfit» [for work] were taken on foot, or for the weaker ones, by truck, to Krematorium II or III. For about two weeks, from 15th to the end of March 1943, victims heading for Krematorium II, the only one ready at that date, used a particular route. Because the access stairway to the underground undressing room was not yet finished, a stable-type hut was erected on a north-south line in the north yard of the building [Document 81], to serve as a temporary undressing room. After passing through the wire mesh gates in the fence round the Krematorium, the unfit entered this hut; at the northern end, emerged naked from the southern end, and then being visible to the prisoners in B.III, disappeared into the northern stairway of the Krematorium [Document 81]. From there, they were channeled into Leichenkeller I, the gas chamber, the door was shut on them and they were gassed. Once the stairway from the outside directly to the underground undressing room was completed, the hut was dismantled, and from April 1943 the victims entered the north yard of Krematorium II, walked along the northern side of the undressing room along its whole length, went down the western stairway [Document 82], with its metal guard rails, and entered the undressing room. The whole operation now being underground, nothing was visible from the outside, which was not the case before. Once they were undressed [Document 83], the unfit went through the double door at the far end of the undressing room along a short corridor and through the vestibule into the gas chamber, whose entrance was on their right.

As soon as the whole group of 1,000 to 1,500 people was in the gas chamber, the gas-tight door was closed and secured with its two latch bars, which were screwed tight. The lights in the room were then probably extinguished. On the roof, SS medical orderlies wearing gasmasks introduced 1 or 1.5 kg of Zyklon-B into each of the four «chimneys» with their covers (making 4 to 6 kg in all) which projected 40 or 50 cm above the grass growing on the earth bank covering the roof of the gas chamber. Death followed very quickly, as the amount of Zyklon-B used was a FORTY times the lethal dose [Document 84]. In a few minutes, if at the very most, depending on the humidity of the air and the ambient temperature, all the victims were dead. In theory, an SS doctor was supposed to check by looking through the peephole to make sure nobody was still moving. But as a real check was impossible it could be that nobody was and was generally dispensed with altogether, the poison used being so very toxic and effective. The air extraction system was then switched on for at least 20 to 30 minutes, for there was a great deal of poisoned air still in the chamber, the amount absorbed by the victims being minimal. The gas-tight door was then unbolted and opened, and the work of extracting the corpses began immediately [Document 85]. The «dentists» then pulled out the gold teeth and collected any jewelry (most of the «Krematorium» gold came from melted down jewelry, NOT GOLD TEETH, which only accounted for a very small percentage). «Barbers» sheared the hair off the women. These two operations were carried out either directly in the gas chamber entrance [Document 86] or where the corpses were taken from the lift at the end of the furnace room. In the early days the corpses were loaded 3 or 4 at a time on the temporary goods hoist, then later 10 to 15 at a

time on the permanent electric lift, and sent up to the ground floor. There, the Sonderkommando men attached leather thongs to them and slid them along a shallow trough of wains to a point in front of one of the furnaces [Document 87]. They were placed head to foot in threes on a metal «corpus stretcher» and charged into one of the muffles (this was the normal name for normal adults: it could be more in the case of children, but it could never possibly have been twelve adults, even reduced to muzzled state, as claimed by one former Sonderkommando man) [Document 88]. The incineration of such a charge took 45 to 60 minutes [Document 89], though some maverick witnesses have claimed it took only 15 to 20 minutes, or even less. The pulled air blowers on the side of the furnaces were apparently used only when starting up a furnace. Once the furnace was hot, the corpses burned spontaneously. Witnesses have stated (or drawn [Document 89]) that when working at full capacity and high temperature, flames leapt 2 or 3 metres from the top of the chimney. There is no photographic evidence to corroborate this claim, however. The work of incinerating the corpses was watched by the SS from a room known as the «Capo's room» [Document 90].

The destruction of 1,000 to 1,500 people took a whole day or more. The two bottlenecks in the process that put absolute limits on the incineration capacity of Krematorium II and III were in fact the extraction of corpses from the gas chamber, which took «hours and hours» according to former Sonderkommando member David Olitz, and then the cremation process, which took 24 to 36 hours. Somewhere between 15th and 20th June 1944, during the extermination of the Hungarian Jews, the three working Krematoriums and Bunker 2/V established the unhappy record of between 4,000 and 5,000 people eliminated in a single day (the «emotional» figure put forward after the Liberation for this day was 25,000).

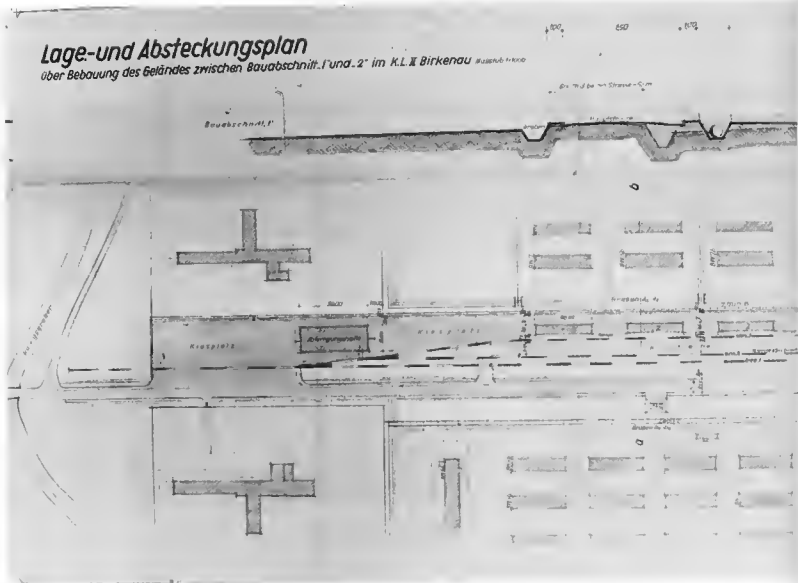
THE DESTRUCTION OF KREMATORIEN II AND III

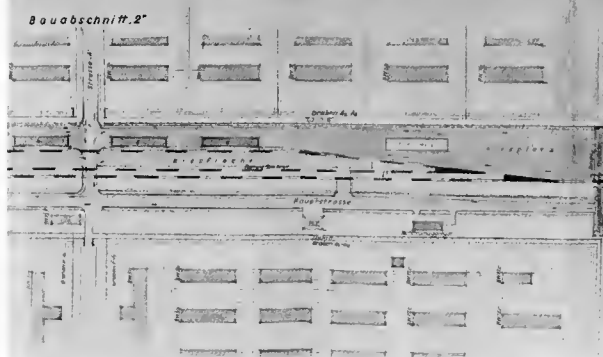
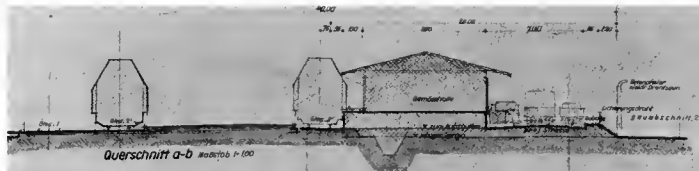
After the order was received to destroy Krematorium II and III, an «Abbaukommando/demolition commando» was formed on 31st December 1944 to perform this task. Work advanced rapidly. The roofs were dismantled, the underground room ventilation systems removed, the chimneys and furnaces dismantled. On 21st December 1944, the floors of the roof spaces were burnt and the earth banks over the undressing rooms (Leichenkeller 2) had been removed, this earth being placed on the ground on either side of these premises [Document 91]. The way in which the earth was removed and cleared away from the cellars shows that the SS intended to expose the walls as well, so as to be able to remove all trace of the Krematoriums. Unfortunately for them, it would appear that these outdoor activities had to stop because the ground was frozen. Work then proceeded inside the buildings, the ten cremation furnaces being removed, so that only the empty load-bearing pits were found at the Liberation. On 14th January 1945, aerial dismantling continued [Document 92]. In the afternoon of 18th January, Auschwitz II (Birkenau) was evacuated. It had not been possible to complete the destruction and removal of the Krematoriums, partly because of the frost and snow and partly because of this lack of time, for the Russian troops were dangerously close. On 20th January 1945, the SS blew up the remaining carcasses of Krematorium II and III, apparently in daytime (towards midday for Kr II, according to Mr Otto Klein's

•Lage- und Absteckungsplan über
Bebauung des Geländes zwischen
Hausbuch 1 und 2 im K.L.II
Birkenau • Location and development
plan for the land between census
sheets 1 and 2 in K.L. II Birkenau.

Maßstab/Scale 1:1000
Drawing 40/54, drawn by prisoner 471
on 21/01/1944 checked on 22/04/44 and
approved by SS-Lagerführer Juchacz on
24th or 26th June 1944

[The inscriptions are translated in Part
V, Chapter 2 •The extermination
stations]





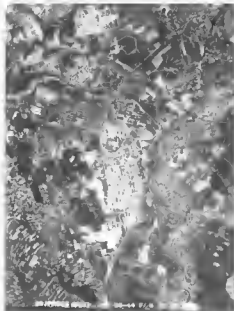
Einzelplan 100
 1:100
 unter Nr. 200/824

Lfd. Nr. 572

Vertrag des Bauherrn
 zwischen M. L. F. und K. F.
 4054

Document 77

Aerial photograph of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum complex taken from 30,000 feet on 26th June 1944. The Birkenau camp above, Auschwitz below it and slightly left, Museum below centre.



Document 78

Background of the aerial photograph of 26th June 1944 showing the Birkenau (PW) camp and street in KL Auschwitz (Birkenau). There is no protective screen around Krematorium IV at this date.



Document 79

Aerial photograph taken on 25th August 1944 showing Auschwitz station (top right) and part of Auschwitz II including B1 the ramp and Krematorium II and III.



Document 80
(PMA neg no 20583)

Part of an overall plan of Birkenau. Bacteriology wing 221b shown on 20th March 1943 and showing Krematorium II and III. In the grounds of KL II. In the north part, there is a sub-type latrine type 1/4/49 (40' 70" x 19' 50") that served as a temporary dressing room from 15th to 31st March 1943 while the western access stairway to Leichenkeller 2 (the dressing rooms) was being built.





Document 31
[Photo by the author]

Present state of the northern access stairway to the basement of Krematorium II (on the right). On the left are the three steps that led up to the ground floor of the Krematorium. It was between the entrance where the victims emerged naked from the southern end of the undressing hut and when they disappeared down this stairway that they were briefly visible from II III. The gas chamber was in the background, on the right.



Document 32
[Photo by the author]

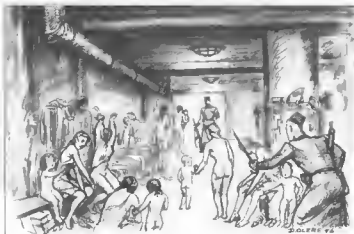
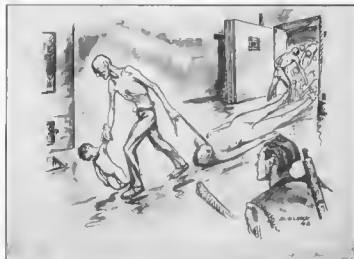
Present state of the western access stairway to the underground undressing room (Leichenkeller 21) of Krematorium II photographed from the watchtower next to enclosure 17 of the Krematorium. In the background on the left at right angles to the road are the ruins of the underground gas chamber. It is possible that the ruins belong to the old "ring of prisoners" which gives an idea of what their fate must have been in 1944. The SS guards in this tower were in the last seat for seeing how cremation operations proceeded.

Extracting the corpses from the gas chamber of Krematorium III, as remembered by David Olère. The gas-tight door is a little wider and thicker than the real thing, is similar in pattern to that found after the Liberation, despite the fact that the protective grid over the peephole on the inside of the door is different [from that drawn by the former prisoner General Geric] (in: *Journal de 1945*, volume 92, pages 235 to 247). It is unfortunate that in order to make a bigger impression David Olère has drawn the end of a 3-muffle furnace, whereas they were on the ground floor, not in the basement.



Document 61
[Painting by David Olère]

Crucifix by David Olère, 151 cm by 162 cm, entitled «GASSING BY CYCLOS II». The dominant colour is a blue of the same shade as the Zynlon B pellets. It is not known if and how David Olère was able to witness such a scene through the peephole of the gas-tight door of the gas chamber, without being detected by the SS, and in any case, the lights were usually switched off, though there may well have been exceptions to this rule. Whether the picture is entirely imaginary or is based on what the artist actually saw, this is the only one showing a homicidal gassing.



Document 63

[Sketch by David Olère, 151 cm by 162 cm, entitled «GASSING BY CYCLOS II»]

Sketch by David Olère, former member of the Sonderkommando, drawn in 1946 and showing the undressing room (Leichenkeller 2) of Krematorium III. Upper left is the air extraction duct. The gas chamber was beyond the far end of the room, off to the right.



Document 64
[Sketch by David Olère, 1946]

A woman's hair being shaved off by a barber and gold teeth being extracted by a dentist, both members of the Sonderkommando, being closely watched by an SS man. This scene is situated (Nazi) in the gas chamber of a Krematorium of type III as shown by the wire mesh Zynlon B introduction columns in the background.

Document 87

[Sketch by David Olère, 1945]

View of the furnace room at work. The scene shows the hanging of corpses using a scissor stretcher. On the right is the trough of water making it possible to slide the corpses more easily from the left to the furnace. The life which brought the corpses up from the basement, is seen at the far end of the furnace room loaded.



Document 89

[Sketch by David Olère, 1945]

View of Krematorium III, looking southeast/northeast, as remembered by David Olère. Despite certain errors, points clearly on the layout and number of all pylons on the roof: the building is very well depicted, with a sharp of lines in the background that still is visible today. The pile of logs was found in the same place at the Lubliner (see Document 74). The lightning conductors, bowed by the intense heat, are inaccurately placed but nevertheless contain the kind of detail that can hardly be lost. Despite these faults, this sketch is almost as good as a photograph.



Document 92

[Found photograph in the Auschwitz Archives by Jerzy Klugfeld]

Partial view showing two shelves of one of the two Tegel-type multiple-lustrators in the Krematorium of Buchenwald Concentration Camp, located inside the Lubliner. The photograph is from an unknown American source. These furnaces were identical to those installed in Birkenau Krematorium II and III. They were designed by Tegel's chief engineer Kurt Böhle.



Document 90

[Sketch by David Olère, 1945]

Scene representing three SS men sitting in the 'Cape's room' and consuming 'the 11 hours' of a copy of French 11.5 with 'the 11 hours' of the room being decorated in Krematorium III. According to the ground floor plan of the building, this service/office window should be a sliding window with no horizontal divisions, but it could nevertheless have been as David Olère drew it. The position of the furniture with respect to the window proves that this must be Krematorium III.

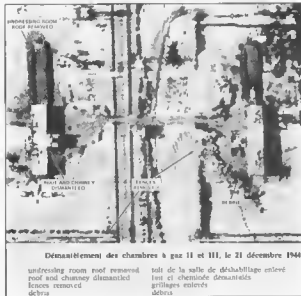


statements to the author. A group of Dr Mengele's twins, to which 'Mi Klein and his brother belonged, was ordered by the SS to take cans of inflammable material and explosives into Krematorium III, then having left the building the twins sought safety in a drainage duct from where they watched the explosion) or according to Danna Czech's «Calendar», towards late afternoon.

AFTER THE WAR: RUINS, MONUMENTS AND EXCAVATIONS

The Soviet troops who liberated Birkenau on 27th January 1945 between 2 and 3 o'clock in the afternoon found three Krematorien in ruins, inaccessible because of the rubble. The Soviet investigation commission does not seem to have touched those of Krematorien II and III, but left them as they were. On the other hand, the clearing of Krematorium V began immediately. The fact is that the Soviet Commission had seen that while in the case of Krematorien II and III the SS had dynamited almost entirely dismantled carcasses, the situation was different with Kr V, where the SS had blown up the COMPLETE BUILDING one night (between 22nd and 26th January, the exact date is not known). As no incineration furnace remained in the camp (those of Krematorien I, II, III and IV having been dismantled earlier), it was hoped that that of Kr V would be found not too badly damaged in the ruins of the building (like the five furnaces built by Messrs H Kain at KL Majdanek, which had remained intact despite the fact that the SS had burned the Krematorium in July 1944). However, the SS had placed a lot of explosive in the muffles of Kr V, so that when the rubble was cleared, virtually nothing remained of the big 8-muffle furnace but the twisted metal frame. For reasons of safety and for investigation purposes, the ruins of Krematorium II (Documents 93, 94, 95, 96 and 97) were cleared of rubble shortly afterwards in order to give access and so that the Polish Commission (which had taken over from the Soviet Commission) could understand its arrangement and undertake research. The same was done with Krematorium III (Document 91), where the demolition work was less advanced than in the case of Kr II. At this time, and for a period of several months, nobody was allowed to visit the Krematorium areas and the entrance to Birkenau was even guarded by the nazi. Certain revisionists have presented this measure as being intended to allow the ruins of the Krematorium to be arranged to make them fit official history. A claim all the more contemptible when one knows the real reason, which was to protect the Krematorium sites from scavengers, to prevent (in actual fact to unsuccessfully try to limit the damage) the local population from digging for «Jewish gold», which they started to do immediately after the Liberation. This ignoble treasure hunt was crowned with success for some Poles, but had the disastrous consequence of destroying virtually all the ruins—cups, letters, photographs and other evidence concerning the criminal activity of the Krematorium that had been buried in such risk by members of the Sonderkommando.

Fortunately for the Polish Commission, the Auschwitz main camp was almost intact, and much material having belonged to the victims of the extermination were found there (readers who have seen the Soviet film on the Liberation of the camp will certainly remember the scene in which the heaps of cylindrical paper sacks of about 20 kg stuffed full of women's hair were presented). The buildings, even the roof spaces, were chock-a-block with the most varied and surprising



Démantèlement des chambres à gaz II et III, le 21 décembre 1944.

undressing room roof removed
roof and chimney dismantled
fences removed
debris
toilet of the hall of delousing removed
toilet and chemists dismantled
grillages removed
debris

Document 91



Camp d'extermination de Birkenau, le 14 janvier 1945.

disinfection building
gas chambers
women's camp evacuated
men's camp
The «Birkenwald»
Section III dismantled
destroyed barrack
main gate
quarantine camp
to SS barracks
bâtiment de désinfection
chambres à gaz
camp des femmes évacué
camp des hommes
le «Bois de baukowitz»
Section III démantelée
baukowitz démolie
entrée principale
camp de quarantaine
vers les baraquements des S.S.

Document 92

Document 93
(PMO neg no 1704)

The ruins of the waste incineration room of Krematorium II being lifted, probably in summer 1945, by a Polish commission who also filmed the final stages of the clearing of Krematorium V. This film has not been found and remains unknown.

Document 94
(PMO neg no 1704)

View of the ruins of the waste incineration room of Krematorium II, looking east-west, in summer 1945.

Document 95
(PMO neg no 1704)

View from west to east of the ruins of Krematorium II. The photograph is standing on the north yard of the building, between the «Jewish garden» (on his left) and the undressing room (on his right), the soil that used to cover it not being visible on the photo. In the background (on the right) are the barracks of Sector «b» of the final construction stage of Birkenau designated B 2b.

Document 96
(PMO neg no 1704)

Western view of the ruins of the undressing room (Leichenkeller 2) of Krematorium II. The photograph is standing on the top steps of the women access stairway. The roof has collapsed onto the floor. Certain supporting pillars have collapsed completely while others have penetrated the floor. On each side of the undressing room are the heaps of earth removed from the roof. Archaic layout of the remains of the former room.

Document 97
(PMO neg no 1704)

South-east view of the ruins of the gas chamber (Leichenkeller 1), at Krematorium II, taken from its southern end. Birkenau left is one of the four openings, the chimney dismantled, through which the Zyklon B was poured. In the foreground, the roof of a young men's pillar that withstood the explosion. The black part of the roof are the places where the concrete layer of concrete has cracked and exposed the layer of insulation during pouring mistakes.



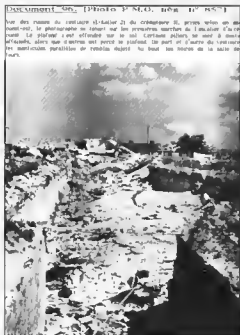
[Document 4]



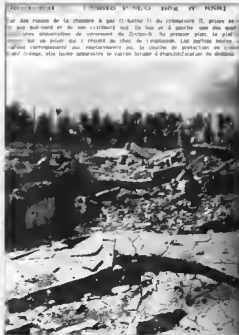
Discussed 94



Document 99



Document 96



Enclosure 97

Document 184
(PAG neg. no. 10201)

The construction, during the winter of 1963-64, of the second Berkovits monument, in the village of Perno, Czecho-slovakia, by Petr Cizek, Georg Simons, Jozef Hruskovec and Jindřich Polák. In the international movement in the vicinity of Prague, typical of the phenomenology of the People's Republics, is absent. Perhaps the appropriate would be «INTERNATIONAL MONUMENT TO THE VICTIMS OF HUMAN POLICE».



Document 186
(PAG neg. no. 10198)

View of the second Berkovits monument, taken on the same day as the preceding one, on a weekend in the. This photograph, taken in the winter of 1963, but, was presented on page 53 of the 11th anniversary of the «Pravda» of January 1970 - «L'espérance nationale» - under the caption: «As a being in 1947». In the author, knowing nothing about his building methods in that part of the world, had done so after comparing this photograph with one of the construction of the chimney of Komsomol'sk Vn 1943 that he saw too many days from the war.



Document 192 Document 184

Document 183 Document 185



objets [Documents 46, 41 and 96]. In the film «Chronicles of the Liberation of the Lager, 1945», already mentioned, the outside of a gas chamber using Zyklon-B at the section of the camp known as «Kanada IV» is shown with its characteristic gas-tight door with a porthole. There is a real problem here, however, for this gas chamber was surely too disinformation, not for homicidal purposes. The interior, several photographs of which were taken in the Liberation and in the 50s and 60s, never seems to have been filmed – probably because it was not fitted with false showers.

In the search for evidence of the criminality of the Krematorium, the «Bunhof», the camp's building materials yard, turned out to be a very valuable source, and was exploited to the full by the Examining Judge, Jan Sehn [Document 91], in conjunction with the correspondence found concerning the construction of the Krematorium.

Then, during the 50s, the Krematorium became places of pilgrimage. A belvedere was built on the collapsed roof of the entrance room of Krematorium II, where the motors for the ventilation system were installed and where some of the Sonderkommando men went to live [Document 100]. A first commemorative plaque was erected near the ruins of Krematorium II, on the initiative [Documents 101 and 102]. A central monument, between Krematorium II and III and the end of the ramp, was erected by the Polish authorities [Document 103]. It would appear that the central monument was later than the commemorative plaque of Krematorium II, whose Hebrew inscriptions were considered too «pro-Semitic» [Document 104] in this time and came to be removed. Finally, in 1961-64, the present monument was erected [Documents 104 and 105], chosen from the works presented at an international competition held by the Auschwitz Museum and the Polish authorities. It is located on part of the land belonging to the two Krematoriums, on very large stones arranged irregularly and extending over a considerable area, thus presenting any subsequent archeological research. It is a static calm as for the individual to judge. The base of the monument is of nineteen stone tablets, each bearing a text in a different language. The content of these texts varies slightly from one to the other: for example, here are the English, French and German versions:

FOUR MILLION PEOPLE SUFFERED AND DIED HERE AT THE HANDS OF THE NAZI MURDERERS BETWEEN THE YEARS 1940 AND 1945	ICI DE 1940 A 1945 4 MILLIONS D'HOMMES DE FEMMES ET D'ENFANTS ON ETE TORTURES ET ASSASSINES PAR LES GENOCIDES HITLERIENS	MARTYRER UND TODESORT VON 4 MILLIONEN OPFERN ERMORDET VON NAZISTISCHEN VÖLKERMÖRDERN 1940 - 1945
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

The figure of 4 million victims is now recognized as «emotional» and should really more in the order of 1 million. Despite this incorrect figure, repeated in 19 different languages, the visitor who stops and meditates before the Birkenau monument cannot but be aware that he is there between two buildings designed as normal crematoriums by a few dozen men, then cruelly converted by these men, and built and fitted out by a few hundred more, and in the end so constructed that they killed and reduced to ashes about 750,000 people, the very great majority of whom were non-combatants whose only crime against the régime that annihilated them was their Judaism.

Before the second monument was built, much digging and searching was done in the crematorium grounds and ruins. The hunt was essentially for notes, photographs and other objects hidden in the heaps of ashes or buried by members of the Sonderkommando. As of 1962, only six manuscripts had been found, whose Hebrew texts were attributed to three authors, Zalman Gradowski, an «unknown author» [presumed to be Leib Langfus] and Zalman Lewental, and also a letter written in French by Hermann Chaim. All these writings were published by the Auschwitz Museum in a special volume entitled «Amidst a nightmare of crime», together with the deposition of Stanislas Janowski (whose real name was Alter Frensfelder) made on 16th April 1945 and in fact placed at the front of this book. On 5th November 1970,

an inhabitant of Oświęcim, Wojciech Borowczyk, brought to the Auschwitz Museum a set of five manuscripts found to the attic of his house during a major tidy up. These Hebrew manuscripts, which had been loaned by his elder brother, Gostaw Borowczyk in April 1945 near the ruins of Krematorium II, had never been handed over to an interested body because the elder brother had left the town. They thus lay undisturbed in the attic for twenty-five years. This «new testimony», written by a Sonderkommando man whose first name was Lejb, was translated by Dr Roman Pryl and published by the Auschwitz Museum under the title «Ich will leben» («I want to live»).

The author knows of two other excavations made during the 60s to investigate the gas chambers of Krematorium II and III. The first dug a trench round the walls of Leichenkeller I of Krematorium II [Documents 106, 107, 108 and 109]. The second, undertaken in August 1968, was at the northern end of Leichenkeller I of Krematorium III and cleared away the soil to expose the air extraction vents near the base of the walls [Document 55]. This last excavation was not consolidated and resulted in land slips that further damaged and jumbled the ruins of this part of Krematorium III.

COMMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS

As we come in the end of this study one observation is certainly called for: most of the German documents used in it have been available to historians for forty years, and yet no precise and detailed history of Krematorium II and III was ever produced during this time and it was not until 1988 that the present author completed such a study, subject to the gaps and errors that may become evident later. In the author's opinion, the reason why such a task has never been undertaken before is to be found in the degree of interest shown, in the main countries concerned about the extermination of the Jews, in the study of the technical means by which it was made possible.

After the work done by the Examining Judge, Jan Sehn, on the question, the Poles felt no need to probe any further. After Jan Sehn's death in 1957, nobody thought to pursue or question his study of the Krematorium where the homicidal gas chambers were located, because the facts were considered to be obvious, as plain to see as the sun in the sky. What is more, a certain anti-Semitic past, which ought to be forgotten in view of the sacrifices suffered by the Poles since 1945, named their historical research away from this field, where the findings were known and accepted, towards work on Polish resistance during the war for the survival of that country. In the Federal Republic of Germany, despite several trials where former SS men claimed that they had scarcely participated in the «actions» at all, or even that they had seen nothing at all, and where former prisoners often asserted things, an ostrich-like attitude and the desire to forget were stronger than any interest in historical research, the main aim being to avoid letting the members of a still smouldering past. The case of the German Democratic Republic was different, its political structure allowing it to squarely face and denounce a past of which it considers the other Germany to be the direct heir. In Austria, a trial such as that of the two Krematorium architects ended up being dismissed for lack of evidence, simply because the historical material provided by the Poles and the Russians was not properly explored, and because of an unconscious refusal of self-criticism on the part of the population. The Soviet Union, hampered by the contradictions in its political orthodoxy and trapped by memories of a guilty past (Katyn, the Gulags) and by an equally guilty present, discredited itself in the eyes of world opinion and gradually lost any rights on the subject, even though it was the Soviet Army that liberated Auschwitz-Birkenau and had seized documents from the archives the quantity and value of which still remain unknown. The Anglo-Saxon world felt itself to be relatively little concerned (United Kingdom) or too far away to really participate (United States, with some very notable exceptions such as Raul Hilberg). The position of Israel would seem to be close to that of Poland on the evidence of the mass gasings, a position reinforced by the presence of numerous survivors of the camps, and interest turned more towards a religious preservation of the memory rather than a close study of the mechanics of the extermination. There remains the case of France, where the Jewish population was free to express itself fully. Unfortunately, the appearance of

the «iron curtain» made contacts and visits to the places where the extermination had taken place very difficult, and the historians had no the opportunity and the desire to study the question generally preferred to take the easy way out and rely on what was said and written by «prominent» witnesses (and by them only), ignoring the testimony of ordinary deportees though who had suffered the most, but without glorifying themselves for it after this war), and disregarding the German archives preserved – on the other side – of the iron curtain.

The fact that the history of the extermination rested essentially on eyewitness accounts gave rise in the West to a debate based on comparison and confrontation of these testimonies, a critical attitude which led in the end towards more people purely and simply denying the existence of homicidal gas chambers. Testimony history and its retroactive offering being very closely linked, the one having generated the other, it became absolutely essential to find a new historical approach in order to escape from this closed circle of faith, doubt and so further in search of the truth. A precise study based on material evidence, such as the study of Krematorium II and III, meets this requirement of getting out of the circle, but can by no means be considered definitive, because like any human endeavour it contains imperfections. It is intended above all to be the beginning: open to criticism and improvement, of a detailed, in-depth study of all the gas chambers, for homicidal or disinfection purposes, still existing in the Nazi concentration camps. This study already demonstrates the complete bankruptcy of the traditional history (and hence also of the methods and criteria of the revisionists), a history based for the most part on testimonies, assembled according to the mood of the moment, arranged to fit an arbitrary truth and sprinkled with a few German documents of uncertain value and without any connection with one another. This new methodology is also a form of protection against the temptation to seek media success, as in films or television programmes which, despite their success, distort even the most elementary historical approach and cut themselves off from basic realities. Finding a hitherto unknown document that makes it possible to fill a gap between two known facts and thus improving our overall knowledge is a thousand times more necessary and important than constantly wasting kilowatts of film on the same places, the same ruins and the same monuments without ever bringing anything new. The money invested in these films or television broadcasts would have been better spent on genuine historical research in order to establish a less fragile truth than that based on human memory, which is fallible and changes over time.

Above and beyond the methodological errors, the faults, delibellations or otherwise, the many sophisms that were committed and triggered a violent initial reaction, it is essential to recall the significance of Krematorium II and III, as it was illustrated after the Liberation by a Soviet artist who portrayed Krematorium II (working on the basis of German drawings of the «930» series) in a desolated landscape [Document 110] and as portrayed symbolically from 1945 by David Orlé. After his return to France, with people constantly coming to ask him «Has any one more of my mother, my father, my brothers and sisters, my dear children, my grandmothers, my aunts and uncles, my friends and neighbours, please, where are they?» David Orlé, in a weak voice and exasperated by all these people who had still not understood, used to reply by thrusting ON THE SINGLE SKETCH [Document 111] under their noses.

Completed on 4th February 1988

Documents 106, 107, 108 and 109

[P100 orig. and 9927 top left]
9924 (top right) 9919 (bottom left)
and 9918 (bottom right)]

South-north views of the
excavations carried out round the
perimeter of the gas chamber (Lut-
chenheller 1) of Krasnodar-11.
The trenches were filled in after-
wards.

Document 106



Document 107



Document 108



Document 109

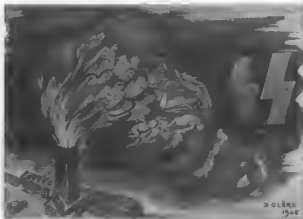


Document 118
PHO neg no. 3267

Northwest/southeast view of Krematorium II in
activity as sketch produced in 1943 by a member of
the Soviet Investigation Commission and based on
Hindenberg elevations of the building taken by
F46, 937 and 938.



Document 119
Sketch of Krematorium III by David Elvov, 1943



ANNEXES

CHRONOLOGY OF THE DRAWINGS OF KREMATORIIEN II AND III

In A. H. H. Lager		B. L. II a. B. W. 30 K. H.	
10.6.47a	Keller	1.100	1.100
10.6.47a	Grundriss einer Entwässerungsanlage	1.100	1.100
11.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
12.6.47a	Querschnitt durch den Keller	1.10	1.10
13.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
14.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
15.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
16.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
17.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
18.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
19.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
20.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
21.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
22.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
23.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
24.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
25.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
26.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
27.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
28.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
29.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
30.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
31.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
32.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
33.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
34.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
35.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
36.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
37.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
38.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
39.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
40.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
41.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
42.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
43.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
44.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
45.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
46.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
47.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
48.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
49.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
50.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
51.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
52.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
53.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
54.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
55.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
56.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
57.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
58.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
59.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
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64.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
65.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
66.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
67.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
68.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
69.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
70.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
71.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
72.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
73.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
74.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
75.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
76.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
77.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
78.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
79.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
80.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
81.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
82.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
83.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
84.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
85.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
86.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
87.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
88.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
89.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
90.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
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95.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
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97.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
98.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
99.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100
100.6.47a	Grundriss	1.100	1.100

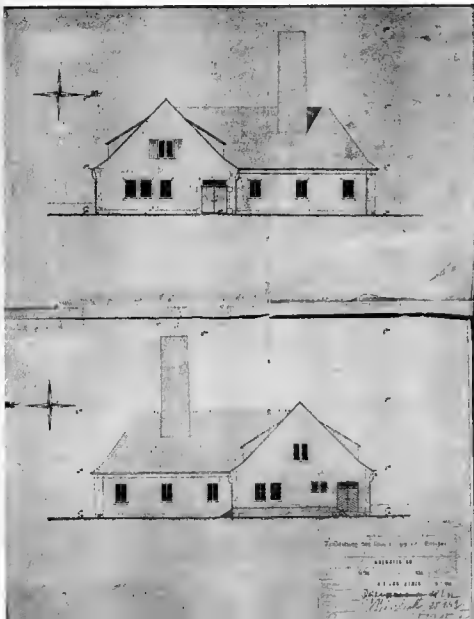
In A. H. H. Lager		C. T. Krematorium B 77a BW II a. BW 30	
1300 Kgl 77a	Entwurf des Krematoriums	1.100	1.100
1311	Grundriss des Krematoriums	1.100	1.100
1312	Grundriss des Krematoriums	1.100	1.100
1313	Grundriss des Krematoriums	1.100	1.100
1314	Grundriss des Krematoriums	1.100	1.100
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1371	Grundriss des Krematoriums	1.100	1.100
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1391	Grundriss des Krematoriums	1.100	1.100
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1398	Grundriss des Krematoriums	1.100	1.100
1399	Grundriss des Krematoriums	1.100	1.100
1400	Grundriss des Krematoriums	1.100	1.100

List as at mid-January 1943 of the Bauleitung
drawings produced for the
construction of Birkenau Krematorien II and III
(classified as BW 30 and 30a respectively):

932	Plan [of basement] (manuscript, in drawer)
933	Ground floor
934	Sections
935	West elevation
936	North elevation
937	East elevation
938	South elevation
980	Roof frame
1173	Cross-section of the Leichenkeller [II] with the ventilation and air extraction installations
1174	Cross-section of the basemented area
1301	Foundation plan (in drawer)
879	Proposal for the construction of a provisional Krematorium in the POW camp
1062	POW camp Krematorium
1300	Krematorium drainage system
1311	Correction sheet to basement plan
1341	Details of doors, dormer windows [not held]
1434	Construction of chimney for Krematorium [II] Dated 3/6/42 [not held]
1740	Sketch of dormer window [not held]
1745	Krematorium 3 [III] chimney [not held]

Atematorium
Est.





BAULEITUNG DRAWING 936 OF 15/1/42

The first drawing, 936a) [Polish] comes from the PMO Archives, file BW 30/04 neg. no 17610 and 20818/6
The second drawing, 936a) [Russian] comes from the «October Revolution» Central State Archives in Moscow

Krematorium [Birkenau Krematorium II, BW 30], scale 1:100
Drawn on 15/1/42 by SS Sergeant Ulmer,
checked on 28/1/42 by SS Second Lieutenant Dejaco and
approved on 28/1/42 by SS Captain Buchhoff.

This drawing of the four elevations of Birkenau Krematorium II was produced by combining drawings 935, 936, 937 and 938 for the new Krematorium originally intended for the Auschwitz main camp

- The east elevation of drawing 937 became the north at Birkenau;
- The west elevation of drawing 935 became the south at Birkenau;
- The south elevation of drawing 938 became the east at Birkenau;
- The north elevation of drawing 936 became the west at Birkenau.

Since the west elevation at Birkenau, formerly the north elevation at the main camp, was at the bottom right of the combined drawing, its number was given to the new drawing, on which the shadows are still those of the original planned location in the main camp. The three identification blocks of drawings 935, 937 and 938 were scratched out, but traces of them are still visible below and to the right of each elevation [on 936a)]. The original title «Entwurf für das Krematorium» was erased from drawings 935, 936 and 938, and only the word «Krematorium» was retained on 937. The original orientation of each elevation was also scratched out, the traces being particularly visible on 936 and 938.

The nature of the land at Birkenau, where the groundwater is almost at surface level (unlike the main camp, where it lies deeper), meant that the two Leichenkeller (=corpse cellars) could no longer be directly under the building, as had probably been initially planned, but had to be raised to form semi-basements.

Because of this local constraint, the elevation drawings for Birkenau were modified by adding indications of the semi-buried Leichenkeller:

- The beginning of the roof of Leichenkeller 2 is shown at the right hand end of the north elevation;
- On the left, the roof of Leichenkeller 1, with its underground walls shown in broken lines [on 936a)], and on the extreme left the beginning of the roof of Leichenkeller 2 can be seen on the south elevation;
- The roof of Leichenkeller 1 is drawn on the left of the east elevation;
- The roof and the underground walls in broken lines [on 936a)] of Leichenkeller 2 appear in the centre of the west elevation, with on its right the beginning of the roof of Leichenkeller 1.

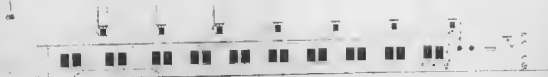
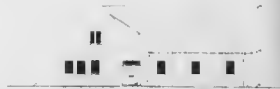
[On drawing 936a)], the broken lines of the Leichenkeller walls are present, but are practically invisible on the photograph presented, whereas they can clearly be seen on 936a)].

The date of 15th January 1942 attributed to this drawing is clearly wrong, for it is that for the project for the main camp, not Birkenau. A more likely date would be slightly before or contemporary with that estimated for drawings 1173 and 1174, in April 1942 [necessarily after the decision to transfer the site of the new Krematorium, which was taken on 27th February 1942].

Modification of the orientation of the building Recapitulation

Drawing 937 East elevation —> North	Drawing 938 South elevation —> East
Drawing 935 West elevation —> South	Drawing 936 North elevation —> West

Δρυσόγειον



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BAULEITUNG DRAWING 1173-1174 OF 15/1/42

The first drawing, 1173-1174p) [Polish] comes from the *PMO Archives*, file BW 30/08, neg. no 17812 and 20818/9

The second drawing, 1173-1174r) [Russian] comes from the «October Revolution» Central State Archives in Moscow

General title: «Entwurf für das Krematorium/Project for the Krematorium»

Krematorium [Birkenau Krematorium II, BW 30], scale 1:100

Drawn on 15/1/42 by SS Sergeant Ulmer,

checked on 28/1/42 by SS Second Lieutenant Dejaco and

approved by SS Captain Buschoff. [Approval not dated, but also of 28/1/42]

1174: Längsschnitt durch den unterkellerten Teil/longitudinal section of the basemented part [left hand side].

1173: Schnitt durch Leichenkeller I mit Be- und Entlüftungskanälen/Cross-section of Leichenkeller I with ventilation and air extraction ducts [right hand side].

Translation of inscriptions:
(left to right and top to bottom)

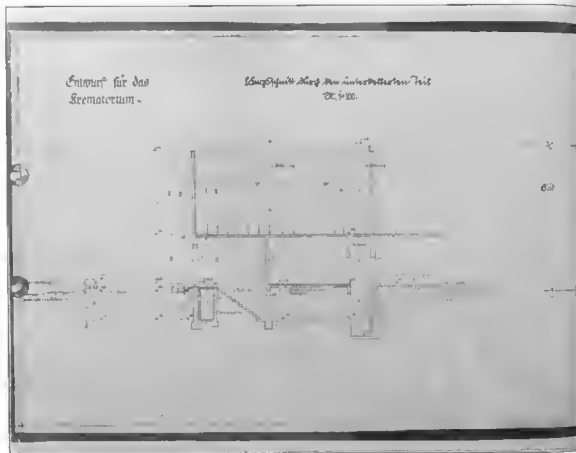
Drawing 1174:

- Erdschüttung/earth bank
- Vorlage/hard fill
- Gewachsener Boden/minimal earth
- Absetzrinne/drainage ditch
- Rutsche/corpee chute.
- Belüftung/ventilation
- Unterzug/iron
- Eisenbalken - Bohlendecke/reinforced concrete roof beams.
- Anfring/corpee lift.
- Entlüftung/air extraction.
- Entlüftungskanal/air extraction duct
- Verbrennungsraum/incineration room (funeral room).
- Betonboden m/a) Glasrußschicht/concrete floor with smooth screed
- Vorlage 18cm HGI) [7/18cm hard fill...]
- Gewachsener Boden/minimal earth.

Drawing 1173:

- Anschüttung/earth bank
- Belüftungskanal vom Dachgeschoss/ventilation duct from roof space.
- Entlüftungskanal-Verbindung (unter d. N.G. Fußboden/air extraction duct junction (below new ground level).
- Belüftungskanal - Verbindung/ventilation duct junction
- Anschüttung/earth bank.
- Entlüftungskanal zum Dachgeschoss/extraction duct to roof space
- Neue Geländehöhe/new ground level
- Gewachsener Boden/minimal earth
- KREMATORIUM - Zutritt verboten/KREMATORIUM - keep out.

Drawing 1173-1174pt



Spuren der Laufentlastung 1
mit 2. und 3. Mittelpunkt



4.1.11.13.12

1. 10

170

2.1.11.13.12

Druckentlastung 1.1.11.13.12
Druckentlastung

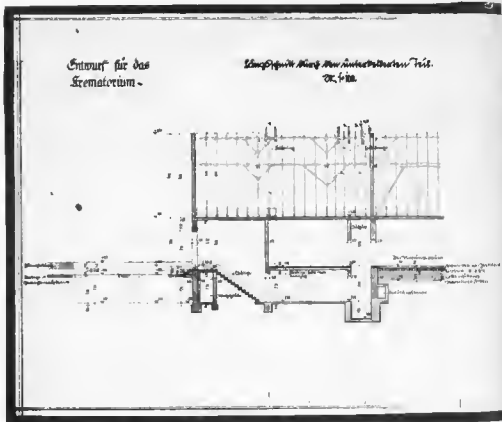
Drawing 1173 uses the west elevation of the Krematorium intended for the Auschwitz main camp (drawing 935, reused in the combined elevation drawing 936). The date of 15th January 1942 corresponds to this older drawing, NOT to the new number allocated by the Bauleitung, 1173, which according to comparison with others drawings must have been issued in April 1942.

Drawing 1173 shows the cross-section of Leichenkeller I (the future gas chamber) where it joins the ground floor of the building, and shows in detail the paths of the ventilation and an extraction ducts. The transformation of this room into a homicidal gas chamber did not bring about any modification in the ventilation system, which had been designed for an underground morgue. The idea was that fresh air coming in [Belüftung] near the ceiling would cool and descend to the lower layers and be taken out near floor level through the an extraction ducts [Entlüftung]. If the system had been designed in the first place for a gas chamber using hydrocyanic acid, it would have been reversed with respect to that drawn, with the fresh air coming in below and the warm, toxic air being extracted from above. This cross-section, contrary to what historians have hitherto claimed, cannot be used to prove the existence of a homicidal gas chamber in Leichenkeller I of Krematorium II.

Unlike on drawings 933 and 934, the transverse connection of the fresh air inlet duct is not covered with earth.

Drawing 1174, drawn like 1173 in April 1942, shows the shape of the corpse chute designed to serve the at first three, then two underground morgues of Krematorium II: Leichenkeller I and 2, and, in the roof space, the various ventilation chimneys, the single chimney on the left being the fresh air intake for Leichenkeller I, and one of the two on the right being the noxious air outlet for Leichenkeller I while the other is the air outlet for either Leichenkeller 2 or the furnace room.

The discrepancy between the numbers of this drawing and its date is an indication that the members of the Bauleitung, who had completed the study for the new Krematorium at the main camp only on 28th January 1942, with a complete series of drawings 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, had been caught unprepared by the decision made on 27th February 1942 to transfer the building to Birkenau where the nature of the land was different. Pushed for time, they used the drawings from their earlier study, making the absolute minimum of changes and not even bothering to change the dates and some of the numbers on the original identification blocks.



BAULEITUNG DRAWING 933

[PMO Archives, second drawing of file BW 30/02, neg. no. 2081704]

Entwurf für das Krematorium/Project for the Krematorium
Grundriß vom Erdgeschloß/Ground floor plan
Krematorium [Birkenau Krematorium II, BW 30], scale 1:100
Drawn on 19/1/42 by SS Sergeant Umer,
checked on 28/1/42 by SS Second Lieutenant Dejaco and
approved on 28/1/42 by SS Captain Bischoff.

Translation of inscriptions, (left) to right and top to bottom)

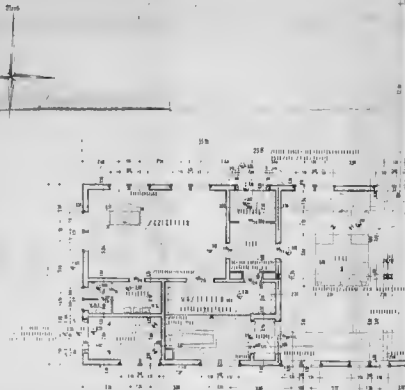
- Stufen, Türen- und Fensterrahmen - Oberschl.
Sandstein/Steps, door and window frame facing
sandstone!
- W Cloy/WC
- Rußkammer/Corpses chute
- Toilette/Toilets
- Plattenbelag/Tiling
- Scharraum/Dissecting room
- Steinholz Fassboden/Xylofite floor
- Schmied Eisengitter/Wrought iron grill
- Waschaum und Aufhängestamm/Washing and
laying out room
- Platten-8/Tiling
- Windfang/Windbreak
- Flur/Vestibule
- Be- und Entlüftungsschächte vom U G/Ventilation
and air extraction shafts from basement
- Aufzug/Corpse lift
- Dehnungswand/Expansion joint
- Ofen/Furnace
- Entlüftungsschicht zum Abluftkanal/Vents to hot air
extraction duct
- Betonboden/concrete floor
- Stophen/Siphon
- Verbrennungsofen/incineration room
- [Finisura room]
- Müllverbrennungsofen/waste incinerator
- Sangzugzwang/Smelter type forced draught
installation
- Meien Kamin/Moist room
- Glas für Koksalzschmelze for bringing coke
- Glas für Beschaltung des Ofens/Furnace charging rail
- Dämmwand/Wooden partition wall
- Eisenbetondecke/Reinforced concrete steps
- 19 Stiegen/19/Steps
- Capo/Capos [rooms]
- Geräte/Tools [for operating the furnaces]
- Schrank für Urnen/Cupboard for urns
- Gefälle/Slope
- Verstärkungstreibe/Stiffening rib
- Brennstofflager/Fuel store
- Ca 1 1/2 Eisenbahnwagen Fassgehalt/Capacity about
1 1/2 railway wagon loads
- Brausen/Showers
- Pissoir/Urinal
- Aufemahlsraum für Häftlinge/Prisoners' rest room
- Abfahrl für Schlacke und Asche/Clinker and ash dump

Drawing 933, the ground floor plan of the new Krematorium for the main camp, seems to be original and scarcely to have been changed at all with the change of site to Birkenau. In fact, after the change in the orientation of the building, only the partial outlines of Leichenkeller I (bottom left) and 2 (extreme left) seem to have been added to the original drawing, its internal arrangement not having changed in the least. The central ventilation shafts [Be- und Entlüftungsschächte vom U G/Ventilation and air extraction shafts from basement] seem to be original, the one on the left being for fresh air intake and the one on the right for air extraction. However, according to drawing 1173-1174, both were for air extraction, while a third was created for the ventilation of Leichenkeller I, visible in the southwest corner of the [corpse] washing room [Waschraum].

The location of the door to access the corpse chute, down which the bodies were to be slid for storage in the underground morgues, shows that the Krematorium was originally designed for the Auschwitz main camp, where this door would have given directly onto the 'Kasernenstraße', the road passing between the SS administration buildings and the Old Krematorium [K I] [Figure 1]. On the other hand, in Birkenau, this door, which ought to be the most used in a crematorium, is almost on the opposite side of the building to the entrance gate to the grounds of Krematorium II and would necessitate a considerable detour for the delivery of corpses [Figure 2].

This drawing was combined with 934 of 27/1/42, the 'section drawing', the combination still bearing the number 933 and the date 19/1/42. It will be designated here as 933-934.

Entwurf für das Krematorium.



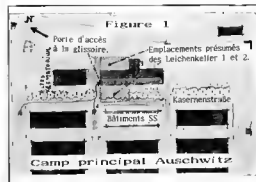
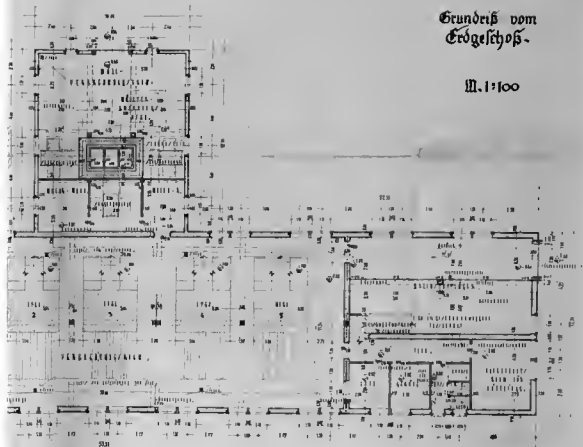


Figure 1

Port d'accès à la glissoire/Chute access door
Emplacements présumés des Leichenkeller 1 et 2
Kasernestraße/Name of a camp road
Bâtiments SS/buildings
Camp principal Auschwitz/Auschwitz main camp

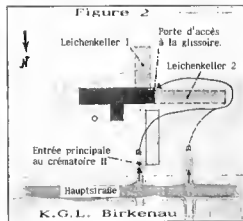


Figure 2

Port d'accès à la glissoire/Chute access door
Entrée principale au crématoire II/Main entrance to Crematorium II
Hauptstraße/Name of a camp road
K.G.L. Birkenau/Birkenau POW camp

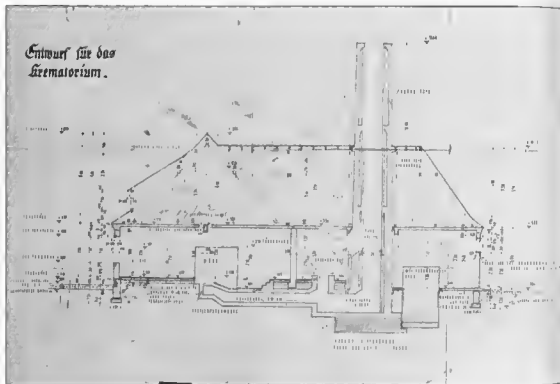
BAULEITUNG DRAWING 933[-934]

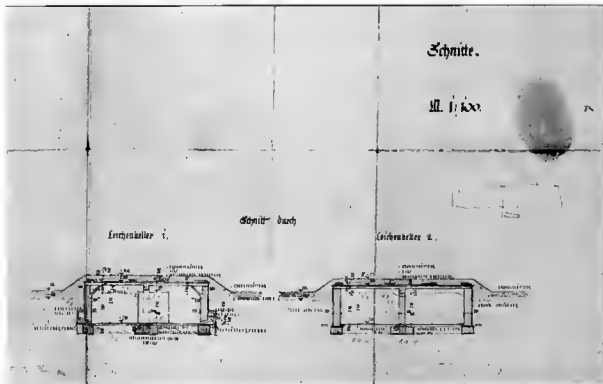
The first drawing, 933[-934]pt (Polish) comes from the *PAHO* Archives the first drawing of BW Ro-02, dat. 19037

The second drawing, 933[-934]pt (Russian) comes from the «October Revolution» Central State Archives in Moscow.

Entwurf für das Krematorium/Project for the Krematorium-
Schnitte/Sections
Grundriß von Erdgeschoss/Ground floor plan
Krematorium (Birkenau Krematorium II, BW 301, scale 1:100
Drawn on 19/1/42 by SS Sergeant Ulmer,
checked on 20/1/42 by SS Second Lieutenant Dejaco and
approved on 20/1/42 by SS Captain Bischoff

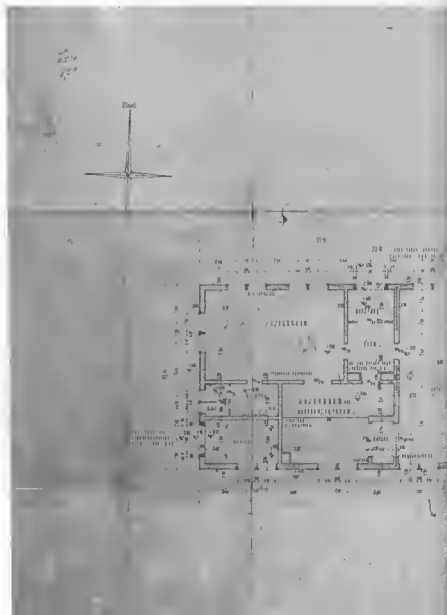
Drawing 933[-934]pt



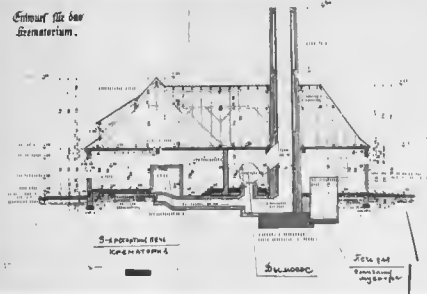


Translation of inscriptions:
[see drawings 933 and 934]

This drawing is a combination on the same sheet of drawing 933 of 19/1/42, the ground floor plan, and 934 of 27/1/42, sectional drawings of the building and its Leichenkeller 1 and 2. The date is that of the original drawing, and is thus not valid for the combined drawing. It is likely that only the sections of the furnace room and the waste incinerator room have not been modified. On the other hand, the cross-sections of Leichenkeller 1 and 2 were most probably added in April 1942. Only drawings 933, 934 and 1173-1174 were coloured as illustrated on the photographs of the drawings from the Moscow archives. The colouring system was not completely uniform, having been done at different times for the different drawings, so that details are not exactly the same, but as a general rule brick walls were a reddish pink, cement block ceilings violet, concrete floors pale green and the roof frames yellow.

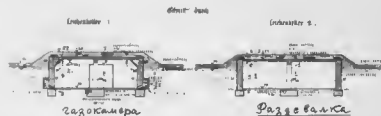


Entwurf für das
Krematorium.



Schnitt.

M. 1:100.



Разокамера

Разгарака

Drawing 9330-5249-05

Grundriß vom
Erdgeschoß.

M. 1:100



Kapitel 2, 3

n. V. 1

VERZEICHNIS

Dr. ...
H. ...

BAULEITUNG DRAWING 932

The first drawing, 932(p) [Polish] comes from the *PHO Archives BW 5001 orig. nos. 17079 and 20818.3*

The second drawing, 932(r) [Russian] comes from the *«Osvobod Revoliutsionnaya» Central State Archives in Moscow*

Krematorium [Birkenau Krematorium II, BW 50], scale 1:100
Entwurf für das Krematorium/Project for the Krematorium
Schnitte/Cross-sections
Grundriß vom Untergeschloß/Basement plan
Drawn on 23/1/42 by SS Sergeant Ullrich,
checked on 28/1/42 by SS Second Lieutenant Dejaco and
approved on 28/1/42 by SS Captain Bischoff

[The date 27/1/42 followed by unknown initials above the identification block on 932(p) would appear to be of civilian origin (the Huta civil engineering firm perhaps)]

Translation of inscriptions, (from left to right and top to bottom)

Betonboden/Concrete floor
Siphon/Siphon
Pfeilerfundamente/Pillar foundation
Isolierung/Damp-proofing
LEICHENKELLER 2/CORPSE CELLAR 2
Abseitzgrube/drainage ditch
13 Stiegen/13 steps
GANG/CORRIDOR
Zum Kanal/To sewer
Entlüftungskanal/air extraction duct
LEICHENKELLER 3/CORPSE CELLAR 3
Rutschlauf/Corpse chute
LEICHENKELLER 1/CORPSE CELLAR 1
SIEHE DFKLATT - ZEICHNUNG NR 13111/
SEE CORRECTION SHEET - DRAWING 13111
VORRAUM/VESTIBULE
Aufzug/Corpse lift
Entlüftungsschacht/Air extraction shaft
Entlüftungskanal/air extraction duct
Nicht unterkellert/Without basement
Nach st. Berechnung/According to static calculations
Schornstein/Chimney
Rauchkanal/Underfloor smoke flue
Ofenfundamente/Furnace foundations
Kontrollschacht/Inspection manhole
Küingebel/Cesspit

Drawing 932 is now the best known of all the Krematorium II drawings. Widely published by both the traditional historians (Georges Wellers) and the revisionists (Robert Faurisson), it is presented as evidence or counter-evidence, depending on the thesis supported, without any valid comment or serious study. In fact, drawing 932 contains no «critical traces» indicating the final purpose of Krematorium II, whose apparent «normality» here would seem to support the revisionist argument.

Drawing, 932(p)

Drawing 932 is made up of three parts:

- in the centre the foundations, with no basements, of the furnace room and the north wing containing the waste incinerator
- on the right (east), the foundations, with no basements, of the fuel store and other auxiliary rooms,
- on the left (west), the basement or «cellar» part of the Krematorium, with the corpse chute serving the three underground morgues originally planned.

The date of 23/1/42 is that of the original version, but cannot be accepted for this version. For the semi-basements, Leichenkeller 1 and 2, as shown here could not be built on the site in the main camp for lack of space.

This drawing is therefore most probably a **second version** of the basement area of the planned Krematorium, redrawn to suit the new site in Birkenau, no doubt in April 1942. The only differences between this and the original version of January 1942 drawn for the main camp would be:

- An increase in the area of the two Leichenkeller originally planned (letter of 22nd October 1941, no. 7157/41 Hs), explicable by the camp originally planned for 10-30,000 prisoners being increased to take a planned 100-150,000 or even more;
- Leichenkeller 1 and 2 now planned as semi-basements instead of full basements, because of the high water table in Birkenau;
- creation of a third underground morgue, Leichenkeller 3

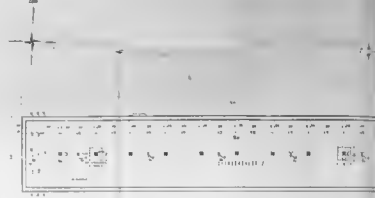
The numbering of the three Leichenkeller, 1, 2, and 3 is not explained in any known German document. Judging by their arrangement around their source of supply, the corpse chute, and the ventilation shown on drawing 932, it is reasonable to suppose that:

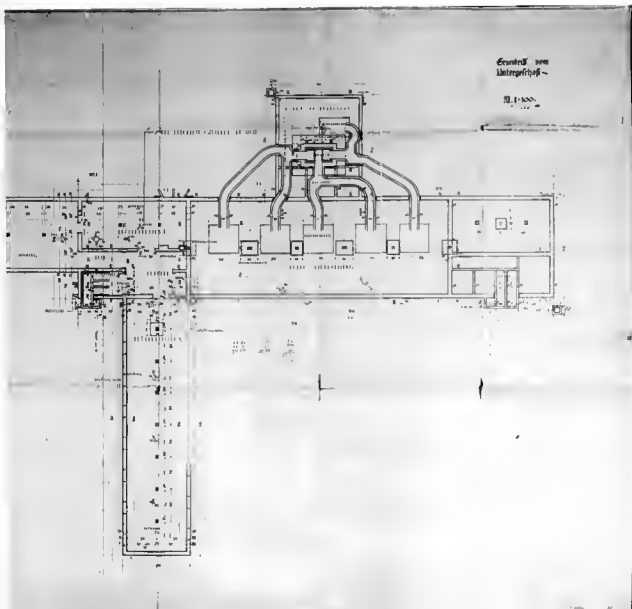
- Leichenkeller 3 was to be the reception morgue, where the prison numbers of the corpses would be recorded;
- Leichenkeller 2 was to be temporary storage for newly arrived and recorded corpses awaiting cremation (delay of 3 or 4 days);
- Leichenkeller 1 was to take corpses several days old, beginning to decompose and thus requiring the room to be well-ventilated, to be incriminated as soon as possible.

There is nothing on this drawing that indicates the future «special» use of this Krematorium. Quite the contrary, it looks perfectly «normal», though very high capacity, incineration facility. The arguments against Krematorium II having been planned from the outset as an instrument of extermination are as follows:

- No access stairway from the exterior to the future undressing room (Leichenkeller 2) [this absence is particularly visible on 932(r), where the Soviets have tried to rectify the defect by adding some steps in the centre of its west wall, which is incorrect, the actual location being more to the north]. What is more, the Krematorium was actually built **without** this stairway (photos orig. nos 236 and 20915-49) for Krematorium III] which was added later;

Entwurf für das
Krematorium.
Bas.





- The direction in which the double doors of the three Leichenkeller opened is shown as being from the outside (corridor and vestibule) to the inside [see sketch]. If large numbers of people were gassed in Leichenkeller 1 with such an arrangement it would have been virtually impossible to open the doors, which would be blocked by corpses.
- A single door is easier to make gas tight than a double door like that planned for Leichenkeller 1;
- The drains of Leichenkeller 1, being connected to the others in the western part of the building, run directly into the common sewer (Absetzgrube), so that if gas were used in Leichenkeller 1, there would be a chance of toxic gas penetrating rooms on the ground floor [see drawing 932(v)], where the trace of the drains of Leichenkeller 1 is underlined in blue;
- The ventilation and gas extraction system of Leichenkeller 1 was designed for a morgue, not a gas chamber, though in the end it was used without modification.
- The central location of the corpse chute, with the bottom end advancing well into the vestibule between the three Leichenkeller would be in the way of people going from the undressing room (Leichenkeller 2) to the gas chamber (Leichenkeller 1).

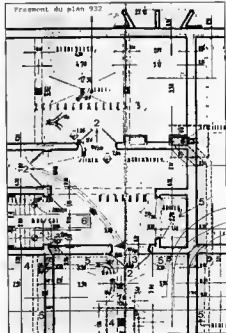


Photo A

The following modifications were made to adapt the Leichenkeller of Krematorium II to suit the new role of «special treatment»:

1. An access stairway from the exterior to the undressing room (Leichenkeller 2) was built. In the meantime a hut erected in the Krematorium yard was used as a temporary undressing room in the second half of March 1943.
2. The direction in which the double door of Leichenkeller 1 opened was reversed (Drawing 2003 of 19/12/42, drawn by Dejaco).
3. This double door was subsequently reduced to a single, gas-tight door;
4. The drainage system of Leichenkeller 1 was separated from the other drains in the west of the building and run direct to a sewer outside the building (drainage drawing, 1300, of 18/6/42);
5. The efficiency of the Leichenkeller 1 ventilation system was tested after introducing Zyclon-B in March 1943;
6. A wooden wall was built in front of the corpse chute, which caused problems with passage from Leichenkeller 2 to Leichenkeller 1 (order 204 of 18/3/43 for Krematorium II, sent to the DAW workshops);
7. 4 heavy wire mesh columns with hided chimneys above the roof for pouring Zyclon-B were installed in Leichenkeller 1 (PMO file BW 30/43, page 12);
8. 24 wooden dummy showers were installed in the ceiling of Leichenkeller 1 (PMO file BW 30/43, page 24 for the Krematorium III);
9. The 3 water taps in Leichenkeller 1 were removed (drawing 2197[B]1);
10. Benches with clothes hooks on the wall above them were installed in Leichenkeller 2.
11. The area of Leichenkeller 3 was reduced (drawing 1311 of 14/5/42) then this morgue was eliminated altogether, having no use in the criminal context of Krematorium II (drawing 2003 of 19/12/42).

Dimensions and volumes of the Krematorium II and III Leichenkeller

	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Area (m ²)	Height (m)	Volume (m ³)
Leichenkeller 1	30.00	7.00	210	2.41	506
Leichenkeller 2	49.49	7.93	392.5	2.30	902.7
Leichenkeller 3	12.30	5.58	68.6	2.31	158.5

Drawing, 9/12/41

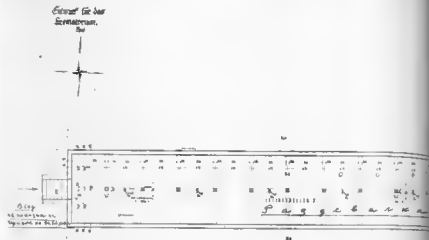


Схема 3
Устройство -

М. 1:100.

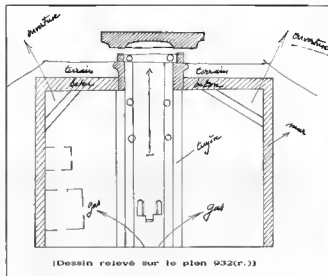
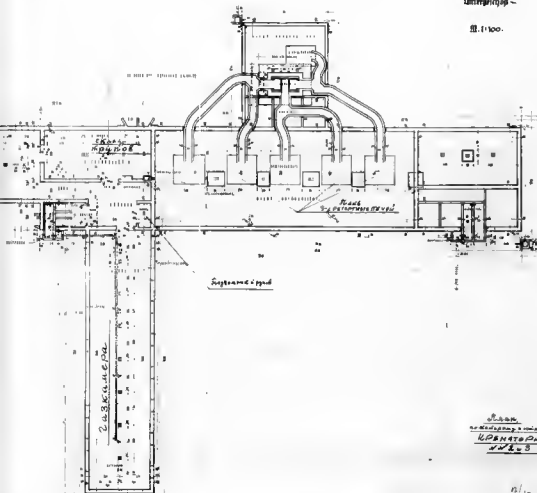


Photo 2
Schematic diagram of Zyklon-B introduction system
taken from drawing 932(r)

Translation of inscriptions:

- Ouverture/Opening (fresh air duct)
- Terrain/Earth
- Béton/Concrete
- Tuyau/Tube
- Mur/Wall

This sketch, found on the bottom left of 932(r), is inverted with respect to the German inscriptions. The inscriptions on the sketch, which is a cross-section of Leichenkeller I, the gas chamber, of Krematorium II, are written in French. This may be because in January 1945, the Soviet Commission investigating the crimes committed in Auschwitz-Birkenau called upon educated former prisoners of various nationalities to act as consultants and explain the way the gas chambers worked, as this was not fully understood at that time. The Soviet film «Chronicles of the Liberation of the camp, 1945» shows a group of medical men and academics, still in their prison uniforms, guiding members of the Soviet Commission. Among them was a French doctor, Henri Limousin, who is perhaps the author of this sketch.

From the historical standpoint, this view of a gas introduction «tube» is valid in its general principle, but incorrect in its structure, which has been known precisely since the testimony of Michal Kula, a former prisoner having worked in the DAW metalworking shop where the wire mesh Zyklon-B introduction columns were made. Two versions were produced, one where the gas was diffused from the lower part and the other from the upper part.

BAULEITUNG DRAWING: 934

[PMD file BW 3003 neg nos 6228, 17809 and 20818:5]

Entwurf für das Krematorium/Project for the Krematorium
Schnitte/Sections

Schnitt durch Leichenkeller 1/Cross-section of corpse cellar 1

Schnitt durch Leichenkeller 2/Cross-section of corpse cellar 2

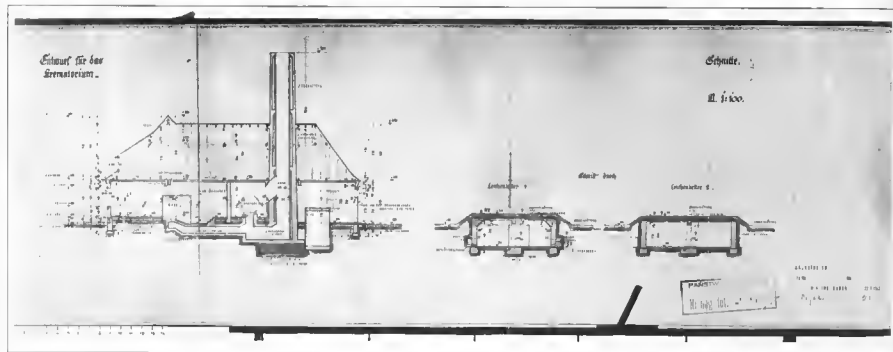
Krematorium Scale 1:100

[Krematorium II of Birkenau POW camp]

Drawn on 27/1/42 by SS Sergeant Ulmer,

checked on 28/1/42 by SS Second Lieutenant Dejaco

and approved on 28/1/42 by SS Captain Bischoff



Translation of inscriptions
(left to right and top to bottom)

Furnace room

- Firsthöhe/ridge height.
- Traufhöhe/eave height.
- Fensterrand/window lintel height.
- Fensterbank/window sill height.
- Sockelhöhe/base height.
- Sockel-/Obersehl. Sandstein/facing sandstone.
- Gewächsemer Boden/natural earth.
- Dachdeckung/Ziegeltile roof covering.
- Eisenbeton-Hohlkörperdecke/ceiling of hollow reinforced concrete blocks.
- Betonboden m. Glattsch./concrete floor with smooth screed.
- Vorlage 18cm HCH [?]18cm hard fill.
- Lehmschlag/clay base.
- Erdschüttung/earth bank.
- Entlüftungskanal/air extraction duct.
- Ofen/furnace.
- Pfeilerfundamente/pillar base.
- Rauchkanal 0,70 x 0,60/smoke flue 70 x 60 cm.
- Türhöhe/door height.
- Sengungsanlage/fuction type forced-draught installation.
- Schornsteinfundamente [Nach Boden Belastung]chimney foundation [after testing soil strength].
- Rauchkanal-Schieber/flue damper.
- 3 Züge 0,80 x 1,20/3 flues 80 x 120 cm.
- Schornstein/chimney.
- Schornstein-Verwahrung/chimney flashing.
- Müllerverbrennungsofen/waste incinerator.
- Betonboden m. Glattsch./concrete floor with smooth screed.
- Vorlage 20cm HCH [?]20cm hard fill.
- Tür- und Fensterumrahmungen - Obersehl. Sandstein/facing of door and window frames sandstone!

Leichenkeller 1:

- Entlüftungskanal/air extraction duct.
- Senkrechte Isolierung/vertical damp-proofing.
- Isolierung/damp-proofing.
- Belüftung/ventilation.
- Erdschüttung/earth bank.
- Kies/gravel.
- Wasserdichte Abdeckung/water-tight covering.
- Betonboden mit Glattsch. 14cm Stk./concrete floor with smooth screed 14cm.
- Pfeilerfundamente/pillar base 150 x 150, 60 cm deep.
- Erdschüttung/earth bank.
- Gewächsemer Boden/natural earth

Leichenkeller 2:

- Abwasserkanal/sewer.
- Senkrechte Isolierung/vertical insulation.
- Erdschüttung/earth bank.
- Kies/gravel.
- Wasserdichte Abdeckung/water-tight covering.
- Betonboden mit Glattsch. 14cm Stk./concrete floor with smooth screed 14cm.
- Erdschüttung/earth bank.

As already mentioned, only the section of the main building is original and of 27/1/42, the cross-sections of Leichenkeller 1 and 2 having been designed and added to this drawing in April 1942.

It was long believed that this drawing was material and undeniable proof that Leichenkeller 1 of Krematorium II was a gas chamber. This conviction was based on the difference in ventilation arrangements of the two Leichenkeller: Leichenkeller 1 had a fresh air supply and an air extraction system, whereas Leichenkeller 2 had no ventilation whatever. Since the final use of the two rooms was known, Leichenkeller 1 being a gas chamber and 2 an undressing room, it was tempting to seek proof of the criminal intention by simply comparing the two rooms, bearing in mind two elementary facts, the gas chamber absolutely had to have a ventilation system, whereas this was not so vitally necessary in the undressing room. Unfortunately this elegantly simple demonstration is completely demolished by two facts. First, in Leichenkeller 1 the fresh air came in near the ceiling and the air extraction vents were near the floor, which means that the system was designed for a cool morgue, not for a warm gas chamber where the fresh air should come in from below and the foul air be extracted from above. Second, there are several notes and letters, from SS and civilian sources, to say nothing of the traces found in the ruins of Krematorium II, that prove that Leichenkeller 2, the undressing room, also had a ventilation and air extraction system. So the argument based on the ventilation systems, trifling in its simplicity and perfectly in line with extermination by gassing, collapses completely because it did not take into account all the available documents, and was mistaken because, hypnotised by the terms «Be- und Entlüftung» themselves, the technical reality of their being inappropriately designed for a gas chamber was not even noticed.

Many other details now prove that the room known as Leichenkeller 1, which in the past has been presented as having been specifically designed as a gas chamber, could not have originally been anything other than an underground morgue. Subsequently, however, a number of modifications turned it into a gas chamber using Zyklon-B and used to asphyxiate very large numbers of people with hydrocyanic acid gas.

Bauleitung drawing 980
[PMO file BW 30407, neg. no. 20922/1]

Entwurf für das Krematorium/Project for the crematorium
Werkstatt/Roof frame
Krematorium: Scale 1:100
[Krematorium II of Birkenau POW camp]
Drawn on 3/2/42 by SS Sergeant Ulmer,
checked on 3/2/42 by SS Second Lieutenant Dejaco
and approved on 7/2/42 by SS Captain Buschhoff

Underneath the identification block on this drawing is the reference 7015/IV, given by the civilian firm HUTA to Krematorium II during their study in the summer of 1942 of drawings of this building given to them by the Bauleitung.

Translation of Inscriptions:

- Kaminverwahrung/chimney flashing.
- Sämtlich eingeschriebene Masse sind Rohbaumasse und sind vor Baubeginn zu überprüfen. Unstimmigkeiten sind sofort zu melden! (All dimensions given are rough figures and are to be checked before work begins. Any discrepancies are to be reported immediately!)

This drawing is directly connected with the «930 series» for a new crematorium in the main camp. It was probably modified in April 1942 to suit the new site in Birkenau, but the changes would have been limited to the ventilation chimneys of the Krematorium.

- a) Creation of a fresh air intake chimney for Leichenkeller 1;
- b) Addition of three (or two) air outlet chimneys to the one (or two) already planned.

**The dimensions of the ventilation chimneys
shown on drawing 980 (left to right)**

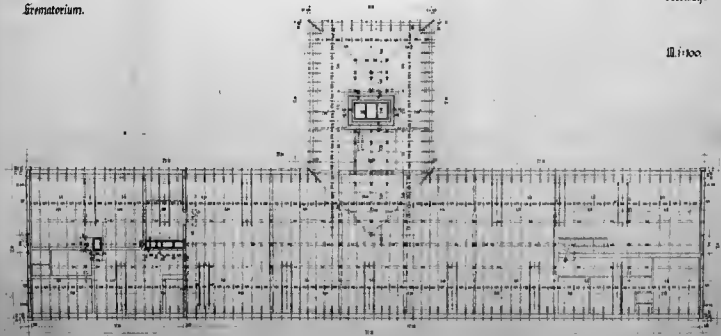
Chimney	Section (cm)	Purpose
Left hand (fresh air intake)		
1a	80 x 50	Leichenkeller 1 (future gas chamber)
Right hand (foul air extraction):		
2nd	50 x 80	Leichenkeller 2 (future undressing room)
3rd	50 x 30	Dissecting and washing/laying-out room
4th	50 x 84	Furnace room
5th	50 x 70	Leichenkeller 1 (future gas chamber)

It should be pointed out that until 1980, the exact functions of the single air intake and the four air extraction chimneys were not precisely known, and the discovery of the sheets filled in by the Topf & Sons fitter, Messing, who installed the Krematorien II and III ventilation systems, has entirely confirmed the hypotheses put forward by the author.

Entwurf für das
Gymnasium.

Überlief.

10. $i = 100$.



NOTED FOR THE RECORD

[illegible]

第 177 页 第 1 行, 第 178 页 第 1 行

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840. 84

Bauleitung drawing 1301

[PMO file BW 30/10, neg. no. 209223]

Entwurf für das Krematorium/Project for the crematorium
Fundamentplan/Foundation plan
Krematorium' Scale 1:100
[Krematorium II of Birkenau POW camp, BW 30]

[This is the first drawing of Birkenau Krematorium II to bear the official worksite (BauWerk) number attributed by the Bauleitung, BW 30. This reference «BW 30», henceforth used to designate Krematorium II, was a later hand-written addition to the identification block]

Drawn on 8/5/42 by SS Sergeant Ulmer,
checked on 8/5/42 by SS Second Lieutenant Dejaco and SS Sergeant Eril,
and approved on 8/5/42 by SS Captain Buschhoff

Translation of inscriptions (left to right and top to bottom)

- Stützlich eingeschriebene Masse sind Rohbaumasse und sind vor Baubeginn zu überprüfen. Untermengen sind sofort zu melden! All dimensions given are raw figures and are to be checked before work begins. Any discrepancies are to be reported immediately!
- Leichenkeller 2
- Aussparung für die Kanalisation (Höhenmaße) Spaces for drains (levels)
- Siehe Schnitt ... (?) Entlüftungsanlage Zeichnung Nr 1174/See cross-section ... (?) air extraction installation drawing 1174
- Leichenkeller 3
- Vorraum/Vestibule
- Leichenkeller 1
- SIEHE DECKBLATT - ZEICHNUNG NR 1311/SEE CORRECTION SHEET - DRAWING 1311
- Fundamentvertiefung unter den Rauchkanälen - 20 cm/Foundation deepened under smoke flues - 20cm
- Aussparung für die Rauchkanäle/Spaces for smoke flues
- Ofenfundamente - Siehe Fundamentplan der Firma Topf/Furnace foundations - see foundation drawing by Messrs Topf
- Nicht unterkellert Teil/Part without basement
- Müllverbrennungsöfen nach Angabe des Fa Topf/waste incinerator according to Messrs Topf data
- Gewachsener Boden/Natural soil
- Kaminfundament, Ausmaße nach statischer Berechnung und Bodenlassungsprobe [OK Kaminfundament]/Chimney foundations, dimensions according to static calculations and soil resistance test [OK?] chimney foundation]
- Klärgrube/Cesspit
- Fundament vertiefung unter der Klärgrube/Deeper foundations under the cess-pit

Drawing 1301 of 8/5/42 is above all a technical drawing, the logical sequel to 932. The number on the identification block corresponds to the date written on it. Despite the fact that about 360 drawings had been produced since the «930 series» for the new Krematorium at the main camp, the Bauleitung Drawing Office still used the old title from this series, «Entwurf für das Krematorium», on that drawing.

Eril, then SS Sergeant, later to be promoted Second Lieutenant, whose signature appears alongside that of Dejaco on this drawing, checked it in his capacity as construction engineer and head of the Bauleitung construction section (Hochbauleitung). Dejaco was an architect and head of the Drawing Office. He decided the layout of the rooms in the Krematorium, but other members of the Bauleitung, each according to his speciality, made the technical calculations.

There are three essentially distinct drainage systems in drawing 932:

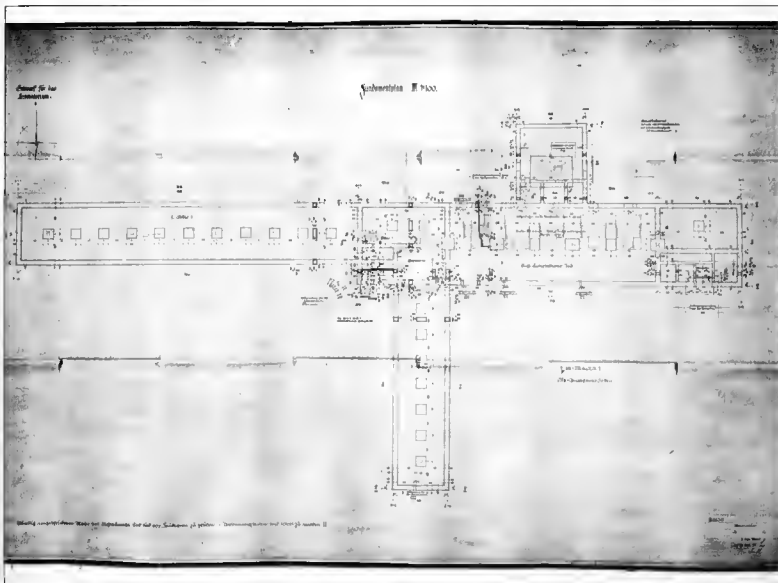
- The western system collects waste water from Leichenkeller 1, 2, and 3, the corridor/vestibule and the western part of the ground floor;
- The eastern system collects waste water from the furnace room and its annexes on the ground floor;
- The northern system collects waste water from the north wing housing the waste incinerator

The three systems lead to three different connections to the external sewers.

On drawing 1301, the western, eastern and northern systems are joined together and lead to a common collector in the west, which in turn leads to the «Königsgraben» [König's ditch], running to the southwest of Krematorium II. The drainage systems are in fact not explicitly shown on drawing 1301, but the pattern can be deduced from the spaces in the foundations left for the passage of drainpipes. The drainage system drawing itself is 1300

Drawing 1301 is a faithful copy of 932, except for the modifications to the drainage system. As with 932, there appears to be no indication of the future criminal role of Krematorium II, except that in the southern wall of Leichenkeller I there is a gap that did not appear on 932, which appears to indicate that as early as May 1942 there was the intention to make the drainage of this room separate from the rest of the system, with the waste water being evacuated towards the south.

After a study by the constructors, Huta of Katowitz, the foundations were laid as shown on drawing 1301, except for the concrete floors of Leichenkeller I and 2, which were made very much thicker, eliminating the need for special foundations for the pillars supporting the roofs (the 14 cm thick floor and 60 cm pillar bases were evened out to a 40 cm layer of concrete, no doubt to make it easier to damp-proof these rooms against the Birkenau groundwater)



Bauleitung drawing 1311

The first drawing, 1311a/1 [Russian] comes from the October Revolution Central State Archives in Moscow.

The second drawing, 1311a/2 [Polish] comes from the PMO Archives, file BW 30/11, neg. no. 20922/5

Entwurf für das Krematorium/Project for the crematorium
Deckblatt zum Grundriß vom Untergeschoß/Correction sheet to basement plan
Krematorium Scale 1:100
[Krematorium II of Buchenau POW camp, BW 30]

Drawn on 14/5/42 by SS Sergeant Ulmer,
checked (not dated) by SS Second Lieutenant Dejaco and SS Sergeant Ertl,
and approved on 23/5/42 by SS Captain Bischoff

Translation of inscriptions (left to right and top to bottom)

- Leichenkeller 2
- Betonboden/Concrete floor
- Leichenkeller 3
- Gang/Corridor
- Büro/Office
- Trockenraum/Strongroom
- Vorplatz/Antechamber
- Siphon/Siphon
- Vorraum/Vestibule
- Leichenkeller 1
- Goldarbeit/Gold working
- Ofen/Sieve for gold smelting furnace?
- Entlüftungsschacht/air extraction shaft

Drawing 1311 is a correction sheet modifying drawings 932 and 1301, mainly as regards Leichenkeller 3. About two thirds of the area of this room was reorganized as follows (reading from left to right): a «Goldarbeit» [goldworking] room for the recuperation of gold teeth, no doubt, in view of the «furnace» in the corner for melting them down into rough ingots, an antechamber giving onto the goldworking room and an office where records of the gold operations were kept and where there was a strongroom for storing the records and the booty before its shipment to the Reich. The remaining third of the area retained the designation «Leichenkeller 3».

The designation «goldworking» was considered in 1945-47 by the Soviet and Polish Commissions to be important incriminating evidence against the SS concerning the extermination of the Jews, but in fact on its own it proves nothing, as the recovery of gold from corpses is current practice, even though it may be considered repugnant.

The term «Goldarbeit», this time spelled out in full, is also found on drawing 2003, showing the final version of the rearrangement of Leichenkeller 3, but the room so designated was never actually used for that purpose. However, according to the testimony of former Sonderkommando men [see sketch by David Olère] there was a primitive gold recovery and smelting shop on the ground floor of Krematorium III. On Bauleitung drawing 2136, this room is designated «Laboratorium/Laboratory».

drawing 1311a/1

As soon as the large-scale extermination of the Jews began, the gold-working shop in Krematorium III was no longer used exclusively for the recovery of gold teeth, but also for melting down the victims' jewelry (rings, earrings, necklaces, bracelets, watches). Dr Miklos Nyizli in his «Auschwitz, A doctor's eyewitness account» mentions that:

the space corresponding to the dissection room in number one [K I] was here [in Krematorium III] used as a gold foundry.

The melting took place in a graphite crucible about two inches in diameter. The weight of the gold cylinder [exactly a sheet] was 140 grammes. I knew that figure to be exact because I had weighed more than one on an accurate scale in the dissection room [of Krematorium III].

This «foundry» produced rough disks 5 cm in diameter, 0.4 cm thick and weighing 140 g. Some of them can be seen in David Olère's sketch, on the edge of the table, underneath the blowlamp, where the two prisoners are at work.



(Sketch by David Olère, 1945 or 46)

Reduced photograph of an early sketch by David Olère, former member of the Sonderkommando of Krematorium III, showing two prisoner gold foundries at work, closely watched by an SS man. The scene is the room marked «Laternenraum» on a floorplan drawing of Krematorium III, 21 % of 22/143.

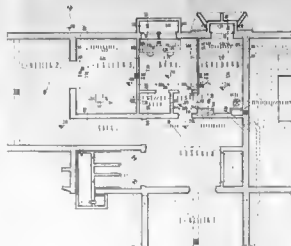
(Source: Myriam Novitch)

Drawing, 131 10pt

Entwurf für das Krematorium -

Deckblatt zum Grundriss vom Lagergefäß -

M. P. 100.



11.04.1945

10.10.

11.11.1945 11.11.

11.11.

Bauleitung drawing 1300
[PMO file BW 30/09, neg. no. 20922/2]

Krematorium - Entwässerung/Drainage
Maßstab/Scales 1:100 and 1:500

Drawn on 18/5/42 by Prisoner 17133
checked on 9/7/42 by SS Second Lieutenant Eggeling and [identification uncertain] Töffert
and approved on 10/7/42 by SS Captain Bischoff

Translation of inscriptions
(left to right and top to bottom)

Eggeling was a Bauleitung SS Second Lieutenant (Specialist), an agricultural engineer, at first responsible for drainage and irrigation on the camp farmland, then, as from 31st January 1942, in charge of road building and water supply and drainage in the Birkenau camp. It is in this latter capacity that he signed this drawing. Töffert [if the signature next to that of Eggeling does indeed correspond to this name] was another Bauleitung SS Second Lieutenant (Specialist), a civil engineer working in the surveying office who was made available to help the SS engineers of other services when required.

Explanatory description

This drawing is based on 932, the basement plan. On this very simplified plan, the different drains and associated pipework (for waste water and rainwater) are drawn with the relevant collector sinks (numbered I to XVI). Also shown are the diameters of the pipes, the depths at which they are to be laid and their slope.

The three longitudinal section drawings on the left concern the location of the twelve sewer manholes (I to XII) and the slopes between them:

- 1st section: manholes I to VIII
- 2nd section: manholes IV to XI
- 3rd section: manholes IX to XII

The scale for the depths is 1:100 and for the lengths 1:500. Associated with these three sections are two tables summarizing the characteristics of the installation, specifying: ground level, depth of sewer, diameter and slope, distance between manholes.

Längsschnitt zwischen Revisionschächten I-VIII/Longitudinal section between manholes I and VIII

- OF [Oberfläche/Surface [of ground]
- Geländehöhen/Levels
- Kanalsohlenkoten/Depth of sewers
- Querschnitt u. Gefälle/Cross-section and slopes
- Entfernungen/Distances

Längsschnitt zwischen Revisionschächten IV-XI/Longitudinal section between manholes IV and XI

Längsschnitt zwischen Revisionschächten IX-XII/Longitudinal section between manholes IX and XII

- Gefälle/Slopes
- Bemerkung/Remark
- Kanalhöhe/Sewer height
- zum Graben/to the ditch

Erklärungen/Key:

- Innere Kanalisation/Internal drains
- Äußere Kanalisation mit Regenwasser/External drains with rainwater
- Die unter der Decke verlegte Abfluß-Leitungen/Rainoff pipes laid under the roof [they not used]
- Automatische Rückstanklappe d 15 mm Zinkblech/Handbetätigung/Automatic 15 [cm] diameter non-return valve also fitted with a manual control
- Angegebene Höhen für die Kanalsohle/Indicated heights for bottom of sewer
- Geländehöhen/Levels
- Bogen mit Putzgeschickert/Elbow with cleansing trap

The main sewer for all the waste water from Krematorium II, planned as a 25 cm pipe, has been crossed out with two red pencil crosses along its route and from manhole II there runs a red arrow and underneath it is written «zum [to the] Königsgarten» [the name of a main drainage ditch in the camp]. On the site, however, the concrete cover of manhole I can still be seen in place, and is in the southwest of Leichenkeller 1. The modification hand-written on the drawing was therefore not implemented, though this makes little difference. In the end for there were only two places the main sewer could run to: the Königsgarten (to the west), or the «Kläranlage I»/Water purification plant I» (to the south), which again finally led to the Königsgarten.

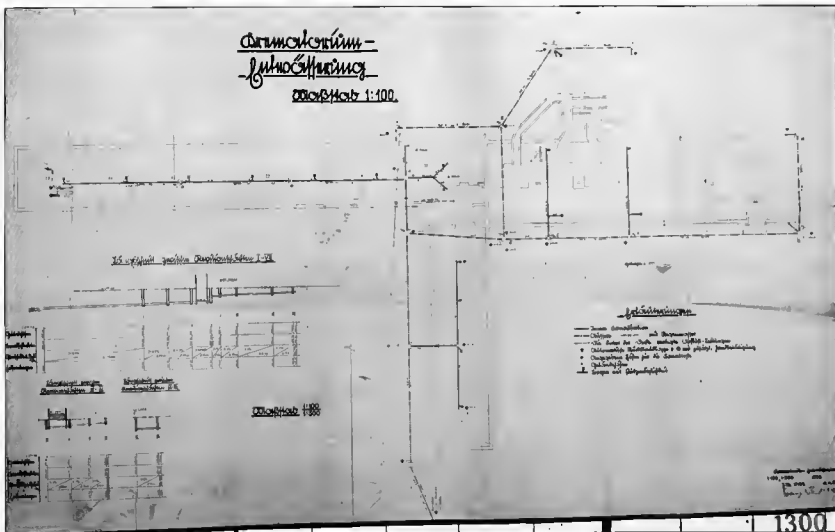
The sewer manholes associated with Krematorium II were of square section, brick built and with a metal ladder built in, whereas those installed for Krematorium III were simply made of a few sections of 1 metre diameter concrete pipe, with no internal ladder. The construction of the KI III drainage system was greatly simplified as compared with that of KI II.

The complete separation of the drainage system of Leichenkeller 1 from that of the rest of the building (as foreshadowed on drawing 932), is the first trace of the eventual conversion of Leichenkeller 1 into a gas chamber.

This drawing must have later been modified slightly to take account of the new features in Bauleitung drawings 1311 and 2003, which split up the area occupied by Leichenkeller 3 and to allow for the creation of the direct access stairway from the outside to Leichenkeller 2 (the undressing room). The final version of the Krematorium II drainage system is to be seen on Bauleitung drawings 2197[a and b] of Soviet source.

Антонюк Ю.И. -
Зинченко Ю.И.

Scale/Map 1:100.



Drawing 1305 by the civilian firm Messrs Konrad Segnitz

[PMO file BW 30/20, neg. no. 20946/3]

VOLLMAR BOHLEN BINDER DACHKONSTRUKTION · FÜR BAU: KGL BW 30 ZENTRALBAULEITUNG der WAFEN-SS und POLIZEI · AUSCHWITZ

Roof frame in «Vollmar» beams · for building POW camp BW 30 Waffen SS and Police Central Construction Management Auschwitz

M/Scale 1:100 and 1:10

Drawn on 7/8/42

Statistics checked by the inspection engineer A Bisdok on 31/8/42

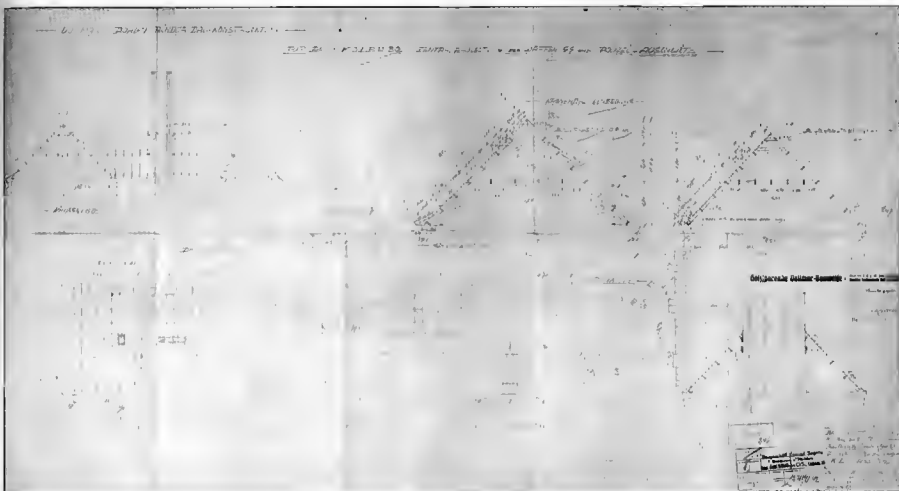
received on 4/9/42 and countersigned by SS Sergeant Ertl and SS Captain Bischoff

Translation of inscriptions
(left to right and top to bottom)

- Längsschnitt/Longitudinal section [actually cross-section]
- Draufsicht/Plan view
- Schornsteinrinne/Chimney width [of the ventilation ducts]
- 68 Stk Vollmarbohlenbinder/68 «Vollmar» beams
- Schnitt Hauptdach/Main roof cross-section
- Kriechdachendeckung/Ridge covering
- Binderabstand/Distance between beams
- Punkt A/Point A
- Wechsel/Supporting plate
- Schnitt Seitenflügel/Wing cross-section
- jeden 4 cm Bänder Anker gegen Sohle/Beam anchor every 4 cm against plate[?]
- Kragstange/Firebrick
- Schornsteinschnitt/Chimney cross-section

The longitudinal and plan views on this drawing were inspired respectively by Bauleitung drawings 933-934 and 980. The chimney cross-section is from Bauleitung drawing 1434 of 3/8/42, «Errichtung eines Schornsteines am Krematorium/Construction of a chimney at the Krematorium [II]», a drawing not found after the Liberation.

This civilian drawing brings nothing new with respect to the Bauleitung drawings, except that the height of the ventilation chimney is shown for the first time.



Bauleitung drawing 1541

[PMO Archives, file BW 30/13, neg. no. 20922/6]

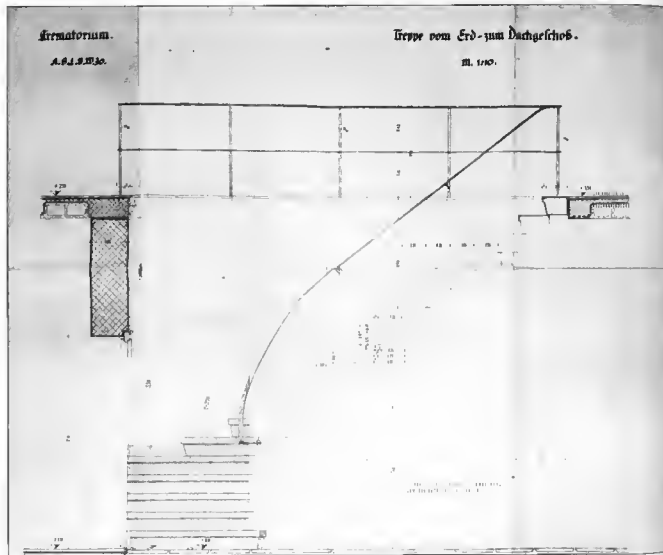
Krematorium KLG BW 30

Treppe vom Erd- zum Dachgeschoß/Stairs from ground floor to roof space

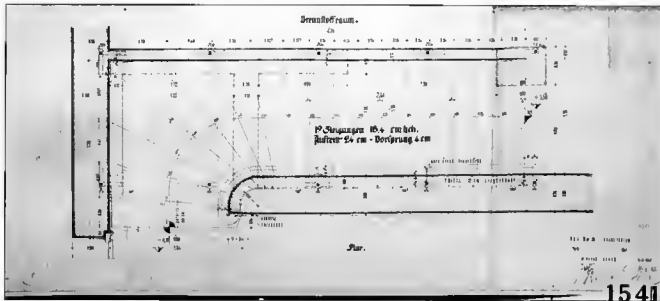
M./Scale 1:10

[Krematorium II of Birkenau POW camp, BW 30]

Drawn on 14/8/42 by SS Sergeant Ulmer,
checked on 14/8/42 by SS Second Lieutenant Dejaco and SS Sergeant Ertl,
and approved on 18/8/42 by SS Captain Buschhoff



Drawing 1541



Translation of Inscriptions
(left to right and top to bottom)

- Anstrich/First step
- Verputzt/Screeded
- Fußsockel/Base
- Brennstoffraum/Fuel store
- 19 Stufen 18.4 cm hoch, Auftritt 24 cm - Vorprung 4 cm/19 steps 18.4 cm high, tread depth 24 cm overhang 4 cm
- Flur/Corridor
- Öffnung in der Treppenuntermauerung zum Durchwerfen der Kohlen/
Opening in the wall under the stairs for access to coal
- Handläufer - Flaschen/Handrail - Flat iron bar
- Tritt 12 cm eingespannt/Steps set in 12 cm
- 2 cm Röhlenstrich/2 cm mortar screed
- Hohlkörperdecke/Hollow block concrete ceiling

The last drawing of Krematorium II drawn by SS Sergeant Ulmer, 1541 is of no real interest in itself. If the whole of the building had been treated in such precise and detailed fashion, right down to trivia, fifty drawings would not have been enough. The reason why Ulmer drew a quite ordinary staircase with a loving care quite alien to the sense of urgency normally so dear to the SS probably has nothing to do with the job itself. A note written by Dejaco on 9th February 1943 [of Soviet source] concerning the personnel employed in the Bauleitung (Drawing Office) run by Dejaco indicates that Ulmer has been transferred to a combat unit. The date of his departure is not known, but must have been somewhere during the six months between his drawing 1544 and Dejaco's note. It would appear possible that Ulmer undertook this not very useful work to stretch out time and delay his posting to the front as long as possible, an eminently sensible attitude.

Bauleitung drawing 2003

[PMO Archives, file BW 30/12, neg. no. 20922/4]

Krematorium im KLG/Krematorium in POW camp

Deckblatt zu Zeichnung Nr. 932 u. 933

Verlegung des Kellerzuganges an die Strassenseite/Relocation of the basement access to the side nearest the road

Kellergeschoss/Basement

Erdgeschoss/Ground floor

M/Scale 1:100

[Krematorium II of Birkenau POW camp, BW 30]

Drawn on 19/12/42 by SS Second Lieutenant Dejaco

and approved on 5/1/43 by SS Captain Buschhoff

Translation of Inscriptions

(left to right and top to bottom)

Basement:

- Leichenkeller 2
- Büro/Office
- Tischer/Sitting room
- W.F. n. Vorplatz/Windbreak and anteroom
- Vorraum/Vestibule
- Goldarbeit/Goldworking
- Anzug/Coupe lift
- Leichenkeller 1
- Nicht antizeller/Without basement

Ground floor:

- Kellerzugang/Access to basement
- WC
- W.R./Wash room
- Abstellraum/Store
- Sezessions/Dissection room
- Waschräum/Coupe/washing room
- Kiem. Eingang/Krematorium entrance
- W.F./Windbreak
- Flur/Corridor
- Aufzug/Corpse lift
- Ofen/Furnace

Bauleitung drawing 2003, drawn by Dejaco himself, is of the utmost importance in the evolution of the plans for Krematorium II and marks the transition from a «normal» crematorium fitted with a corpse chute supplying three underground morgues to an «abnormal» complex that cannot fit any logic other than criminal.

The new arrangement of the basement shows the following modifications as compared with drawings 932, 933 and 1311.

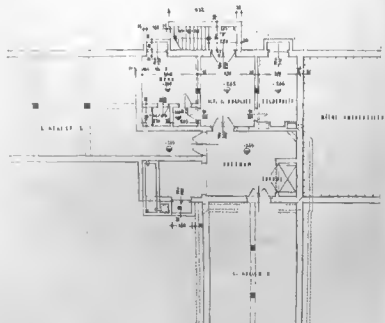
- 1 The double door of Leichenkeller 1 now opens outwards (it had been realized that it would be impossible to open the doors of the gas chamber if they opened inwards, as in the original design).
- 2 The corpse chute has been eliminated (a vital point, implying that since this was no longer required the Leichenkeller could no longer be morgues in any normal sense, or else that the «corpses» arrived on foot).
- 3 The installation of an access stairway leading directly from the north yard of Krematorium II to a basement antechamber between the goldworking room and the associated office, and then to the junction between Leichenkeller 2 and 1. The western access stairway direct to Leichenkeller 2 was not yet planned (the first mention of it found in the PMO Bauleitung files being dated 26th February 1943), so that the stairs drawn by Dejaco became the **ONLY POSSIBLE ACCESS** to the Leichenkeller, through which the «corpses» had to pass. Replacing a chute designed to take corpses by an ordinary stairway defies all logic - unless the future corpses entered while they were still living and could walk down the stairs. But if the basement was being filled with live people, what could the function of the «morgues» now be?

Krematorium im K.G.L.

Deckblatt zu Zeichnung Nr. 932 u. 933,

Verlegung des Kellerzuganges an die Strassenseite,

Kellergeschoss



1 : 100 200

2003

303

Bautelling drawing 2136
[PMO Archives, file BW 30a/15, neg. no. 2092/7]

Krematorium III

Ergänzungsbild/Supplementary sheet
 M:Scale 1:100

Drawn on 22/2/43 by prisoner 538
 and checked on 22/2/43

This drawing, a pale blue-violet, is a copy of the original, which is not held by the PMO, but is probably held in the Soviet Union.

According to Annex 20 of Volume II of the Höss trial, containing the deposition of a former prisoner, Krystyna Horeczak, made on 18th August 1946 before the Polish Examining Judge, Jan Sehn, the original of this drawing was one of two taken from a file by this witness while she was working for the Bautelling, from the end of 1943 to early 1945. These originals and two small freehand copies were given, by a very circuitous path, to the Polish judiciary. The stolen drawings are not annexed to Krystyna Horeczak's testimony, but it would appear that 2136 was one of them, but this is not absolutely certain. The only evidence to confirm this suspicion is the rubber stamp in the top right hand corner of [Jan Sehn's] Cracow Regional Commission for research into Hitlerian crimes in Poland [Określona Komisja Badań Zbrodni Niemieckich w Krakowie], which is found on only two known drawings of the Krematorium: the Topf & Sons drawing d.59042 of Krematorium I designated »Einbau einer Entschärfungsanlage für KL Auschwitz« [Construction of a incineration installation for KL Auschwitz] of 25/9/41 and this drawing 2136 of Krematorium III of 22/2/43.

Translation of inscriptions
 (left to right and top to bottom)

The inscriptions are the same as on drawing 933 (see Sheet 51) except for the following additions:

- Vorderansicht/Front elevation [south]
- Erdgeschoss/ground/Ground floor plan
- Vorräum/Antechamber
- Labor/Laboratory
- Sektionstisch/Dissecting table
- Kellerzugang/Basement entrance
- Seitenansicht/Side elevation [west]

The south (front) and west (side) elevations of Krematorium III are copies of the north and east elevations of Krematorium II as shown on drawing 936. The proof of this is that the orientation of the shadows of the dormer windows, the annex wing and the chimney still corresponds to that of the original location planned for the new Krematorium in the main camp (Auschwitz Stammlager). Two subsequent changes in orientation have produced the illogical situation where the shadows on the south elevation correspond to an eastern aspect and those of the west elevation to a south aspect!

The elevations of 936 were copied, but taking into account the special features of this building

1. On the front elevation: inversion between the main entrance door and the furnace room windows; a metal guardrail for the basement access stairway.
2. On the side elevation: combination of the east and west elevations of drawing 936, with elimination of the west double window of the laboratory and extension of the south annex wing whose length was increased from 12 metres in Krematorium II to 14 in Krematorium III.

The near ends of the roofs of Leichenkeller 1 and 2 are left out of the south and west elevations. Leichenkeller 1 appears on the ground floor plan. Despite the fact that they appear on the drawing, the three forced draught fan motors were never installed because of the problems encountered with those at Krematorium II. The furnaces used natural draught from the outside.

The corpse chute was built in Krematorium III and can still be seen in the ruins. As in Krematorium II, it was closed off by a wooden wall (Baulösung order of 10/6/43, completed by the DAW workshops on 14/4/43). The chute's being hidden in this way explains why, for example, it is absent from the memory of the former Stosserkommando member David Olère in his sketch of corpses being extruded from the gas chamber [Bewusstsein 83] and his plan of Krematorium III drawn immediately after his return to France [see Author's Postface].

Leichenkeller 2 (the undressing room) of Krematorium III was also given a western access stairway for the victims, and two walled-off yards with the same functions as those of Krematorium II. These additional changes appear on Bautelling drawing 4054 of 21/6/44 [see Bewusstsein 76], and can also be seen in the ruins.

The laboratory was never used as such, but served as a workshop for the »gold founders«, producing rough discs of gold, 5 cm diameter and weighing 140 grammes (according to Dr Miklós Nyiszli and David Olère).

There are no »criminal traces« on this drawing, which simply shows a large capacity, but »normal«, cremation facility.



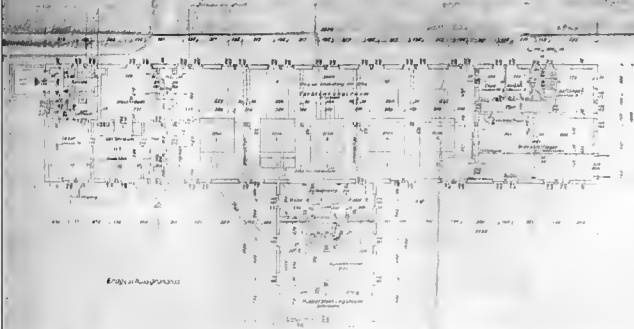
Vorderansicht



Seitenansicht

Krematorium III

Ergänzungsbau M + 100



Grundriss des Krematoriums



Bauzeichnung des Krematoriums III und Teilerei

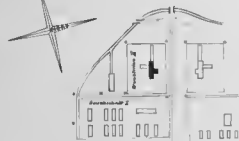
| Blatt | Titel | Verfasser | Gezeichnet | Geprüft | Abgezeichnet |
|-------|-----------|-----------|------------|---------|--------------|
| 1 | Grundriss | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

Bestandsaufnahme des Krematoriums II
K. G. L. Auschwitz Maßstab 1:200

West Ansicht



Situation 1:5000



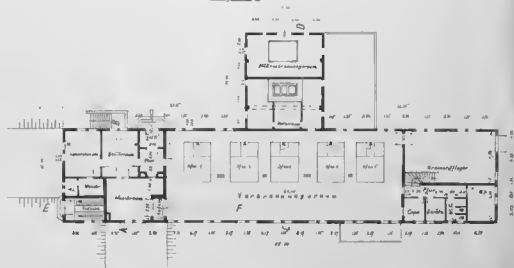
Schnitt A-B



Schnitt G-H



Erdgeschoss



2197

Süd-Ansicht
Schnitt 1-7

W. 4

Nord Ansicht

2197

Bauleitung drawing 2197 of 19/3/43

The first drawing, 2197(p) [Polish] comes from the PMO Archives file BW 301/4, neg. no. 20946/1.

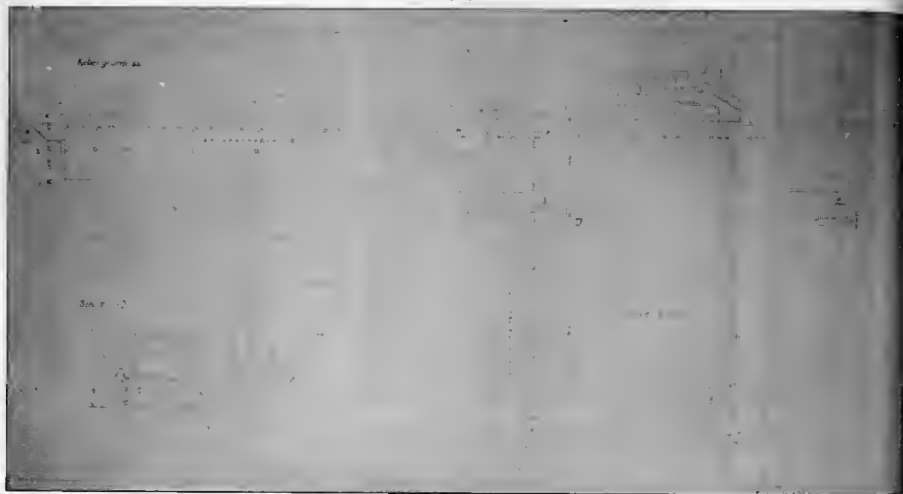
The second 2197(a)(r) [Russian] and third 2197(b)(e) drawings come from the «October Revolution» Central State Archives in Moscow.

Drawing 2197 held by the PMO is not the original, but a pale pink copy, faded and scarcely legible, made for the Polish Commission from the originals collected at the beginning of 1945 by the Soviet Commission. The Museum also has a second copy of 2197 in the BW 34/34A file (No. 8) on a bluish background, which is easier to read than the pink one. There is also a tracing, which was probably used to produce the copies, classified under number 19949, 2197(a)(r) and 2197(b)(r) were given by the Moscow Prosecutor to the Warsaw Central Commission for research into Hitlerian crimes in Poland as exhibits in the Dejaco/Erft trial in 1972. However, they were not transmitted as complete sheets, but each was divided into six photographs. Since the two drawings are virtually identical, an employee of the Central Commission thought there were two copies of the same drawing and sent only one set of six photos to the trial, keeping the other in the research section of the Commission. Unfortunately during the handling of these photographs, the two sets got mixed up, and two photos of one replaced two of the other. This carelessness meant that of the six photos remaining in Warsaw, two belonged to the drawing sent to Vienna, and the Vienna set contained two incorrect photos. Nobody seems to have noticed this substitution, and it was quite by chance that the author stumbled on it by comparing the Warsaw and Vienna copies of 2197. Despite the very poor quality of the copies, 2197(a) is a vital drawing, for it shows the location of lights and water taps in Krematorium II, which is important for an understanding of the instruments of extermination and for exploring other relevant documents.

Seven parts of the 2197(p) presented here have been highlighted in black by the author to make them easily legible.

Bestandsaufnahme des Krematoriums II KGL Auschwitz/inventory drawing of Krematorium II, Auschwitz POW camp
M./Scale 1:200

Drawn on 19/3/43 by prisoner 71134



Kobergraben

Sch. 1

Drawing 2197(p)/IV

Translation of inscriptions
(left to right and top to bottom)

Ost-Ansicht

- Situation/Situation drawing 1:5000
- Bauberschnitt 1/Construction stage 1

Schnitt/Section

- Kellergrundsatz/Basement plan
- Leichenkammer 2
- 2197[a](r) and 2197[b](r) only
- Rückstankklappe/Non-return valve
- Büro/Office
- Vorplatz/Antechamber
- Goldarbeit/Goldworking
- Vorrat/Vestibule
- Aulung/Corporal lift
- Leichenkammer 1

[Handwritten on 2197[a](r) only]

- Die Flächen dürfen keine Ecken und scharfe Kanten aufweisen. Berlin, den 17.6.44 CH/S(7)W/The floors must have no corners or sharp edges. Berlin, 17/6/44 CH/S(7) [signed] Wolfer
- Klärgrube/Cesspit

- Schnitt/Section
- West Ansicht/West elevation

- Erdgeschoss/Ground floor
- Laboratorium/Laboratory
- Waschr/Washroom
- Rutsche/Corporal chute
- Sektionsraum/Dissection room
- Waschr/Washroom
- Wf/Wind break
- Flur/Vestibule
- Aulung/Corporal lift
- Ofen/Furnace
- Müllverbrennungsraum/waste incineration room
- Motorraum/Motor room
- Verbrennungsraum/incineration room [Furnace room]
- Brennstofflager/Fuel store
- Flur/Corridor
- Capot/Captain's room
- Gerüst/Furnace

- Schnitt/Section
- Süd Ansicht/South elevation
- Entlüftungskanalverbindung/Air extraction duct connection
- Belüftungskanalverbindung/Fresh air duct connection
- Verbaute/Roof frame
- Nord Ansicht/North elevation
- Ost Ansicht/East elevation

[on 2197[a](r) and 2197[b](r) only]

- Erläuterung/Key
- Wasserleitung/Water pipe
- Inner Kanalisation/Interior drains
- Die unter der Decke verlegte Kanalisation/Drainpipes laid under cover
- Äußere Kanalisation/Exterior drains

[on [b] only]

- Elektrische Installation/Electrical installation

2197

20.3.43

20.9.46/1

This inventory drawing is the combination of the principal Banleitungs project drawings for Krematorium II and by extension, for Kr III, with the addition of a situation plan of the building. The project drawings were also updated according to the modifications made during construction.

Drawing 2197 is made up as follows:

Situation drawing, 1:5000, with orientation, showing the location of Krematorium II with respect to BA.I (the first construction stage of the Birkenau camp);

Schnitt/Section A-B' cross-section of the building through the Vorraum/Vestibule leading to Leichenkeller I and 2 and the Vorplatz/Anrechamber, including the modifications shown on drawing 2003, except as regards the corpse chute, which remains;

Schnitt/Section G-H' partial copy of drawing 934 showing cross-sections of Leichenkeller I and 2, the cross-section of Leichenkeller 2 (the dressing room) being unchanged;

- Kellergründris/Basement plan taken from 932, it shows:

The final arrangement of the basement, with [on 2197(a)] and [b(c)] only] the drainage system, basically as on drawing 1300, adapted according to the changes made;

The final arrangement of the former Leichenkeller 3 and the junction between Leichenkeller I and 2, as shown on drawing 2003, with the corpse chute retained, contrary to what had been planned, though the bottom end was intended to stop in encroaching on the the vestibule [making passage from Leichenkeller 2 to Leichenkeller I easier] the opening at the foot of the double stairway being closed off by double doors. It is not known whether these doors were ever installed, but on 19/3/43 the DAW workshops completed a Banleitungs order of 17/3/43 for a wooden wall to fence off the chute of Krematorium II, thus coming more or less into line with drawing 2003;

On the three versions of 2197, there is an access stairway at the western end of Leichenkeller 2, making the path taken by the victims more «linear». The drainage of this room was modified accordingly;

Drawing 2197(a) shows not only the final version of the drainage system, but also the water taps [using the symbol ⊥] and the electric lamps [symbol ⊙] in Krematorium II. Thus Leichenkeller 2, the dressing room, had five taps along its southern wall and 10 lamps placed alternately on the north and south walls. Leichenkeller I, the gas chamber, was fitted with three taps, which were subsequently removed, and 16 lamps arranged in pairs along the longitudinal centre beam. This number of taps and lamps is confirmed by the inventory of the Krematorium II basement drawn up as part of the official handover procedure, and makes it possible to correct an error made by a Banleitungs employee, who made an entry on the wrong line of the form:

Schnitt/Section C-D' copy of the cross-section of Krematorium II through the chimney, as per drawing 934;

- West Ansicht/West elevation: copy of drawing 936 (original north side, now become west) with additional traces of the roof of Leichenkeller 2 (cross-section) and the beginning of the roof of Leichenkeller I;
- Edgeschoß/Ground floor plan: copy of drawing 933 with the following modifications:

The original dissecting room is divided in two, the dissecting room proper and a laboratory for examining the results;

In the WC in the southern part of the Krematorium, the shower shown on drawing 933 has been omitted, though it was actually installed (according to the account by Dr Miklos Nyiszli,

The forced-draught installation supplied by Messrs Topf & Sons was removed after many problems caused by the motors overheating, and natural draught proved to be perfectly adequate. The three rooms thus freed (though still designated «Motorenraum») were allocated to new functions [according to Henryk Tauber - see Part III, Chapter 3]. One became the room of the Chief Capo of the Krematorium, and the other two were converted into a shower room (with a dozen showers) [for the Sonderkommando].

The waste incinerator is shifted slightly to occupy a more central position than that originally planned;

The creation of two yards, enclosed by walls about one metre high. According to former Sonderkommando members, the northeast yard (dimensions 6 m by 12 m) was used to store various personal documents brought by the victims, «waste of no market value to the SS, before it was burned in the waste incinerator. In 1944, this yard was covered by a lean-to roof extending from northeast roof of the north wing of Krematorium II, to protect these papers from the rain. In addition, the east end of the incinerator room was made bigger to accelerate the process of feeding the «waste» from the yard to the incinerator. The second yard, to the south, (dimensions 2.5 m by 8 m) was used to contain the human ashes from the furnaces [the clinker from the firebox side of the furnaces was dumped on the north side, near the coke store];

Schnitt/Section E-F' copy without change of the longitudinal section of the basemented part, as per drawing 1174. The encroaching part of the corpse chute is maintained on this section, whereas it no longer exists on the basement plan;

Süd Ansicht, Schnitt I-II/South elevation, section I-II: copy of drawing 1173 (itself derived from the south elevation of drawing 936) with the following additions:

Construction, perpendicular to the west side of the Krematorium of a wall to keep access to the corpse chute clear by holding back the earth bank covering the roof of Leichenkeller 2;

Erection of the ventilation and air extraction chimneys for Leichenkeller I and 2, the furnace room and the dissecting room/laboratory/ washing room complex. In actual fact, after having been built according to drawing 2197 (photographic proof: P580 seq. no. 20995/497) these chimneys were later increased in height [photographic proof: P580 seq. nos 20995/500 and -/ 504 for K; I] and 20995/507 for K(II)]

Construction of the south yard for human ashes, below the last two double windows at the south east end of the furnace room;

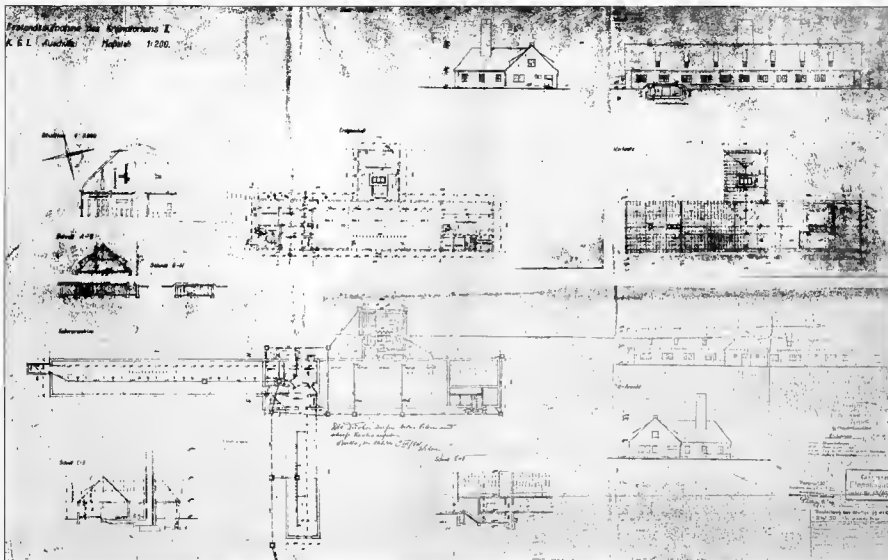
Verplatz/Roof frame taken from drawing 980 without modification except that the detail is drawn lot the western half of Krematorium II only;

Nord Ansicht/North elevation: copy of the north elevation on drawing 936 with the north east enclosed «waste papers» yard and the beginning of the roof of Leichenkeller 2;

Ost Ansicht/East elevation: copy of the east elevation on drawing 936 with the two new enclosed yards

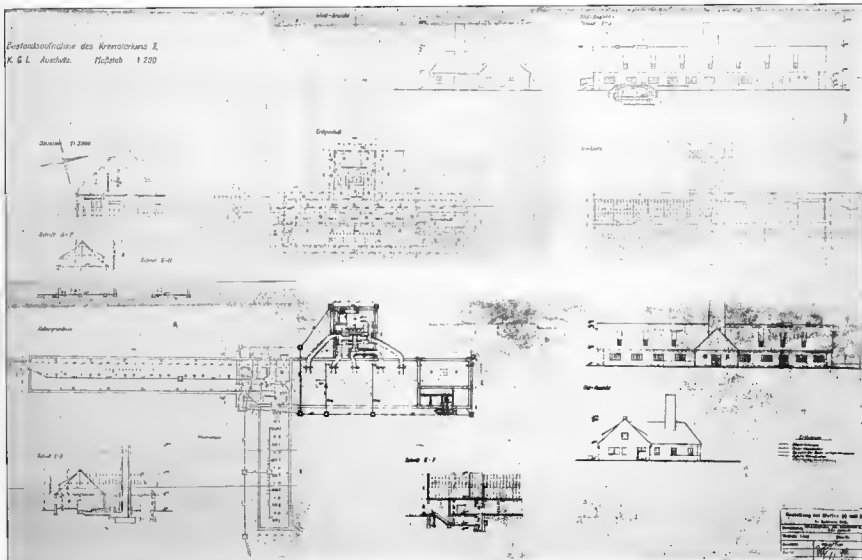
Drawing 2197 provides a very fair inventory of Krematorium II, except for certain modifications made later. It lacks precision regarding the different ventilation systems of the building and their associated motors. Lastly, there is no mention of equipment specifically associated with gassing (gas-tight doors, dummy showers and Zyklon-B introduction columns and chimneys). However, the inventory sheets are more eloquent on this subject, or more «modest», depending on the point of view, and specifically mention this equipment necessary for large scale gasings. Despite their lack of «criminal traces» the three versions of this drawing, and in particular 2197(a), form the essential complement to the inventories.

Freiandaufnahme des Lagerkomplexes I
K&L Aachen Maßstab 1:200



Bestandsaufnahme des Krematoriums II.
K.G.L. Auschwitz. Maßstab 1:200

Drawing
2197(10)



The drawings produced by the civilian firm HUTA

As from October 1941, two civilian firms based in Upper Silesia were engaged in building the KGL [KriegsGefangenenLager/POW camp] Birkenau: HUTA (Hoch- und Tiefbau Ingenieurgesellschaft, 19 Friedrichstraße, Katowitz) and LENZ (Schlesische Industriehaus Lenz & Co AG, 23 Grundmannstraße, Katowitz).

As soon as the SS authorities had decided to go ahead with the building at Birkenau of the projected new Krematorium (which was to become Krematorium II), designed by the Bauleitung, the latter offered the contract to the two main firms already working in the camp and thus familiar with it.

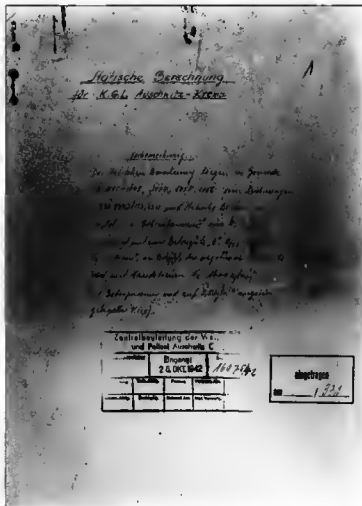
Lenz refused because of shortage of labour, while Huta accepted and was asked to start work on the project immediately. With a covering letter of 2nd August 1942 [Document 1], Huta was sent ten Bauleitung drawings of the building. All of these have survived, except for drawing 1341 of the doors and dormer windows. This letter, signed by the head of the Bauleitung, Bischoff, and signed on receipt on 4th August by a Huta person (left hand signature), is material proof that, contrary to what was thought after the war, there was nothing secret about the drawings of Krematorium II, for they were sent to a civilian firm with no particular instructions.

Huta allocated a number to the new project, and another to the technical studies required for the building [Document 2]. These studies were complementary to those of the Bauleitung, for they concerned specific construction details. Thus Huta allocated the workite number 7015/IV [Document 10a] to Krematorium II (and also III) and produced sixteen drawings for it, numbered 109/1 to -/16. The only ones surviving today are drawings 10, 11, 13a, 14a, 15 and 16 (the significance of the suffix "a" is not known), or six out of sixteen.

The Huta number 7015/IV was inscribed on two Bauleitung drawings: 936 (Elevations) [Document 1] and 980 (Roof frame). This irrefutably confirms that Huta's civilian employees, who were perfectly free to talk of their work outside, were fully conversant with the drawings of Krematorium II, and studied them carefully, as proved by the static studies carried out. In the face of such evidence, it is difficult to go on talking about "secrecy".

Huta drawings 109/1 to 109/11 were working drawings (mainly concerned with the reinforcing bars of the concrete ceilings), produced as and when required by progress on the site. On the other hand, drawings 109/12 to 109/16 were recapitulatory drawings produced in September and October 1943, long after Krematorium II and III had been completed.

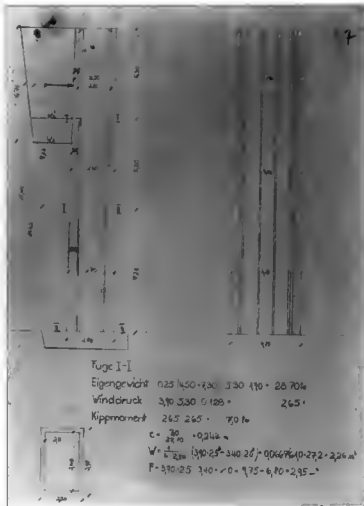
On 19th December 1944, all the original Huta drawings (except for two which were copies) concerning Krematorium II and III were given by the Huta representative who had received the initial Krematorium II drawings in August 1942 into the hands of SS Lieutenant Werner Jothann, then head of the Bauleitung [Document 4]. At the late date it is obvious that the handing over of the Huta drawings to Jothann had nothing to do with tying up the loose ends of the business and completing the Krematorium files [for posterity and before the end of the war]. The real reason was the SS wanted to retrieve everything connected with the extermination, which had finally been denounced in the world press, and to destroy all the evidence before the final collapse of the Third Reich. In addition, together with the order to stop the gasings, the order was



First page of the second set of static calculations static no 22nd October 1942 by Divinsky, an engineer employed by Huta of Katowitz. There were 21 pages in all (the last page is now missing, relating to items 1 to 38 of the original estimate. It was received by the Bauleitung on 26th October and entered in the correspondence register under the reference 1697542.

given to draw the Krematorien II and III [IV had already been demolished and V continued in service for «normal» cremations]. The destruction of the «murder weapon» started at the beginning of December 1944. Because of bureaucratic delays, the Bauleitung's request for Hirta's drawings was also made at the beginning of December 1944. The Hirta drawings presented here were not found among the Bauleitung documents recovered after the Liberation, but in a search of the Hirta offices in Kanowitz ordered by the Examining Judge Jan Sehn in 1945 or 1946.

In conclusion, the Hirta drawings do not contain «criminal traces», but they do make it possible to better understand some of the Bauleitung drawings and they also show that the «secrecy» that was thought after the war to have surrounded the Krematorien could not have existed during their planning and construction. However, once the «special actions» were over, there is no doubt that the SS tried, without completely succeeding, to get rid of all the evidence. They destroyed their archives (but not completely). At Birkenau, they dismantled Krematorien II and III, but were unable to finish the job and ended up having to dynamite what remained. Lastly, in addition to such measures they desperately tried to find and liquidate any surviving members of the Sonderkommando, right up to May 1945.



Translation of inscriptions:

Fuge/Joint
 Eigengewicht/Static weight
 Winddruck/Wind pressure
 Kippmoment/Turning moment

This drawing is extracted from the first set of static calculations produced by the Hirta engineer's Database, relating to items 1 to 25 of the original estimate.

Despite the letter of 2nd August 1942 (Document H) telling Hirta to concern themselves with the static calculations for the chimneys, they nevertheless did carry out such a study in conjunction with Bauleitung drawing 1434 «Erschließung eines Schornsteines am Krematorium/Construction of a chimney at the Krematorium», drawn on 3rd June 1942, through this and not (Fritz) Meissner, Topf & Söhne, responsible for the furnaces, from producing their own drawings. In the end the two identical chimneys of Krematorien II and III were built by Meissner Robert Koenig of Myslowitz. Despite all the calculations and the care taken with the actual building, serious problems were encountered with the chimney of Krematorium II as early as May/June 1942, and part of the lining even collapsed. After much discussion, which went on until mid-September 1944, between Kurt Pscher, chief engineer at Topf, Robert Koenig and the Bauleitung, during which Jacob Mauersdorfer offered his services, the three parties finally agreed that the cost of raising the Krematorium II chimney should be equally shared between them (JPMO file BR 30-24 pages 11 and 12, *Altneuwerk Rechen* no. 31811/4 of 13/9/45).

Kattowitz, den 21. Juli 1943
Za/Wi.

Techn. Registr.

Herrn
Bauführer Stephan
Baustelle der HUTA AG.
Ausschwitz

Betr.: Krema

Fürschmies Oberwanden wir Ihnen die Zeichnungen - Plan 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 980, 1173, 1174, 1300, 1301, 1311, 1341, 1541 sowie unsere Zeichnungen Nr. 7015/IV Blatt 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 und 11.

Die Originalzeichnungen Nr. 7015/IV Blatt 3 und 5 bitten wir nach Einsicht zurückzusenden.

Heil Hitler!

24 Zeichnungen

Translation:

Kattowitz, 21st July 1943
Za/Wi

Herr
Site superintendant Stephan
HUTA AG worksite
Auschwitz

Techn Registr

Subject: Krema.

As requested we are sending you drawings - 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 980, 1173, 1174, 1300, 1301, 1311, 1341, 1541 and also our drawings No. 7015/IV Sheet 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11

We would ask you to return the original drawings No. 7015/IV Sheet 3 and 5 after consultation.

Heil Hitler!
[mental]

24 drawings

| Waffen 44 Ausschwaits Nr 7015 | | | | 27
90 |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Bahn | 78 Nr | KB Nr | Paulier | Paulier |
| Blatt | | | | |
| Schabriche | | | | |
| 13.2.42 | 84/1/2 | 7015 | Waffen 44 | Schabriche S. Ausschwaits |
| 13.2.42 | 84/2/2 | 7015 | . | . |
| 5.2.42 | 84/3/2 | 7015 | . | . |
| 6.2.42 | 84/4/2 | 7015 | . | . |
| Kremlatorium | | | | |
| 20.9.42 | 119/1 | 7015/1 | Waffen 44 | Übersichtsplan |
| 20.9.42 | 119/2 | 7015/2 | . | Plan der Küche über den Speiseraum |
| 20.9.42 | 119/3 | 7015/3 | . | Speiseraum über den Speiseraum |
| 21.11.42 | 119/4 | 7015/4 | . | Plan der Halle in Hütten |
| 21.11.42 | 119/5 | 7015/5 | . | Plan der Küche über dem Keller |
| 22.11.42 | 119/6 | 7015/6 | . | " |
| 6.11.42 | 119/7 | 7015/7 | . | " |
| 21.10.42 | 119/8 | 7015/8 | . | Küche über dem Drusenstofflager |
| 12.11.42 | 119/9 | 7015/9 | . | Küche über dem Boxerraum |
| 13.11.42 | 119/10 | 7015/10 | . | Küche über dem Kellerraum |
| 21.8.42 | 119/11 | 7015/11 | . | Kremlatorium |
| 21.9.42 | 119/12 | 7015/12 | . | " |
| 21.9.42 | 119/13 | 7015/13 | . | " |
| 23.9.42 | 119/14 | 7015/14 | . | " |
| 24.9.42 | 119/15 | 7015/15 | . | " |
| 9.10.42 | 119/16 | 7015/16 | . | Kremlatorium (3) |

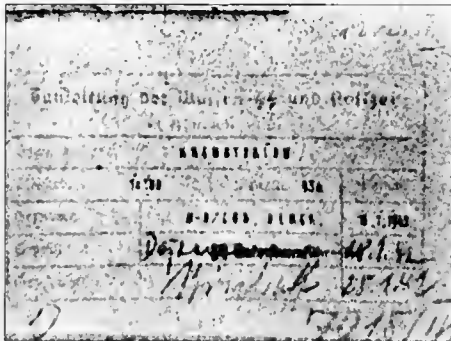
Column headings:

- Datum/Date
- TB Nr upod] Blatt/Technical service no. [?] and Sheet
- KB Nr/Worksite no. [?]
- Bauherr/Owner or prime contractor
- Bauteil/Component of construction
- Gez./Drawn [?]

Entries concerning the Krematorium (the first four entries concern a bridge over the river Sola):

| | | | |
|----------|--------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 30/9/42 | 109/1 | 7015/IV | Übersichtsplan/Overall plan |
| 30/9/42 | 109/2 | 7015/IV | Bewehrung] der Decke über den Ofenraum/ Reinforcement for ceiling over the furnace room |
| 30/9/42 | 109/3 | 7015/IV | Balken über den Ofenraum/Beams over the furnace room |
| 1/10/42 | 109/4 | 7015/IV | Bew. der Balken u Stützen/Reinforcement for beams and supports |
| 20/10/42 | 109/5 | 7015/IV | Bew der Decke über dem Keller II/Reinforcement for the ceiling over Leichenkeller 2 |
| 22/10/42 | 109/6 | 7015/IV | Bew. der Decke über dem Keller I/Reinforcement for the ceiling over Leichenkeller 1 |
| 6/11/42 | 109/7 | 7015/IV | Bew. der Decke über dem Keller III/Reinforcement for the ceiling over Leichenkeller 3 |
| 20/10/42 | 109/8 | 7015/IV | Decke über dem Brennstofflager/Ceiling over the fuel store |
| 12/11/42 | 109/9 | 7015/IV | Decke über dem Sezernraum/Ceiling over the dissecting room |
| 13/11/42 | 109/10 | 7015/IV | Decke über Müllverbrennungsraum/Ceiling over the waste incinerator room |
| 1/3/43 | 109/11 | 7015/IV | Krems. (Deckenbalken u. Unterzug im Müll- verbrennungsraum/ Beam and supports in waste incinerator room |
| 20/9/43 | 109/12 | 7015/IV | Krems. |
| 21/9/43 | 109/13 | 7015/IV | Krems. |
| 23/9/43 | 109/14 | 7015/IV | Krems. |
| 24/9/43 | 109/15 | 7015/IV | Krems. |
| 9/10/43 | 109/16 | 7015/IV | Krems 2 (3)/Krematorien II (and III) |

[The title and content of drawing 109/12 are unknown at present]



Fragment of Raudenborg drawing 9/16 of the four elevations of Krematorium II, showing its identification Mark with written below it on the right the number 7015/IV given to the Kf 04-worksite by Hata. The only Raudenborg drawings to have this number on them are 9/16 and 9/10. This identification actually written on the drawing is tangible confirmation of the correspondence regarding the supply of drawings to Hata.

19. Dezember 44
was/WL.

An die
Zentralverwaltung der
Waffen-SS und Polizei
Auschwitz
an Herrn SS-Untersturmführer Jochen

Abg. u. d. g. m. s. Übermitteln wir Ihnen g. b. l. e. i. t. e. n.
in Original und -Kopien zu Ihrer gef. Bedienung.

Heil Hitler!
H i t l e r
Hoch- und Tiefbau A.-G.
Biedersteiner Allee

Encl:
Original: 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24
Kopien: 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24

Translation:

[manuscript] Subj: Krema

19th December 44
Jes/WL

To the
Waffen SS and Police Central
Construction Management
Auschwitz
Hunted to SS Second Lieutenant Jochen

As agreed, we transfer to you 15 sheets of original drawings and prints to be used as you see fit

Heil Hitler!
H i t l e r
Hoch- und Tiefbau A-G
Kallowitz Branch

Encl:
Original: drawings
No. 109/1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,
8, 9, 10, 11, 13+14
Prints:
No 109/15 and 16

HUTA DRAWING 109/10 OF 13/1/42

[PMO Archives file BW 30/21, first drawing, neg. no. 20640/4]

Betr: Auschwitz K/S Subject: Auschwitz Krematorium
Decke über dem Müllverbrennungsumlauf/Decking over the waste incinerator room
Scale 1:25
Projekt Nr 7015/IV, Blatt Nr 10/Project no 7015/IV, Sheet 10

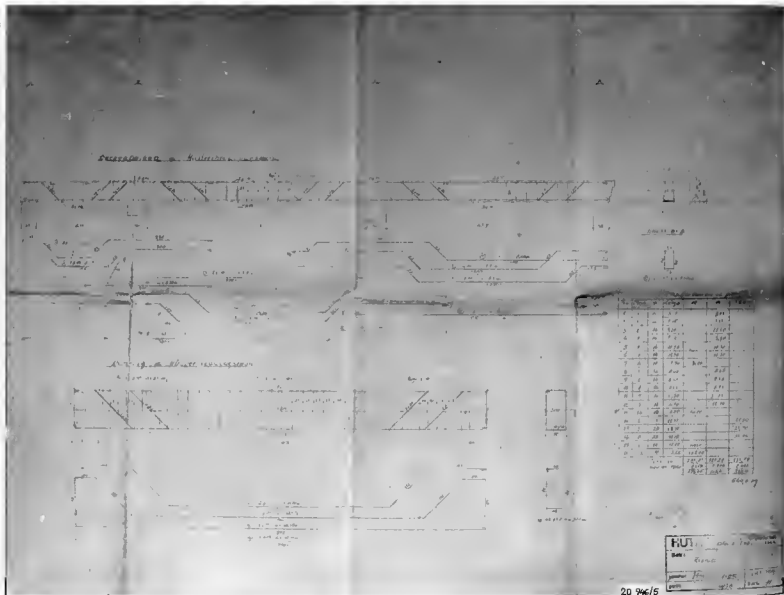
Translation of inscriptions
from top to bottom and left to right:

- I n t e r z e g 1 u 11/Beam 1 and 2
- Pos. 41 u 42/Positions 41 and 42 [refers to the supplementary static calculations for Krematorium II of 12th November 1942 by Dziubay, a Huta employee (PMO BW 30/80)]
- Bügel/Sprung reinforcement
- Schnitt a-a/Section a-a
- Pos. 6,7,8,9 and für Unterzug II Pos. 42/Positions 6,7,8,9 and for beam II position 42 [refers to Huta static calculations of 29th August and 22nd October 1942 for the external walls of Leichenkeller 1 (pos. 6), the reinforced concrete roof of Leichenkeller 2 (pos. 7), the longitudinal beam above the supporting pillars of Leichenkeller 2 (pos. 8) and the cross-beams perpendicular to the row of pillars of Leichenkeller 2 (pos. 9)]
- Türsturz Pos. 16/Door lintel pos. 16 [BW 30/40]
- Schnitt b-b/Section b-b

Column headings

- Nr/No
- Anzahl/Number
- Ø/Diameter
- Länge/Length
- Ges. Länge/Total length
- Ges. Gewicht/Total weight

This Huta drawing is of little interest except as an illustration of the degree of civilian participation in the design and construction of the Birkenau Krematorium



HUTA DRAWING 109/II OF I/3/43

[PIMO Archives file BW 30/21, second drawing, neg. no. 20946/5]

Beer - Krusa, Subject: Krusamenen

There is no title in the identification block, but the drawing is of:

Dachstuhlplan im Maßstab von 1:25 (Roof plan in the scale 1:25)

Umschlag im Maßstab von 1:25 (Cover in the scale 1:25)

Scale 1:25

Projekt Nr. 7015/IV,

Blatt Nr. 11/Projekt no. 7015/IV, Sheet 11

Translation of inscriptions:

See Huta drawing 109/10.

HUTA DRAWING 109/13A OF 21/9/43 [Regularization]

[PMO Archives, file BW 30/19a, neg. no. 20922/10. File BW 30/18, neg. no. 20946/2, also contains a copy of this drawing made after the war and bearing no date or reference]

Banham: Waffen SS u. Polizei Auschwitz/Anschwerte Waffen SS and Police Krematorium 2 [11]

There is no title, but the drawing is concerned with Erdaustrich/Excavation

Technical no. 109, Sheet 13a

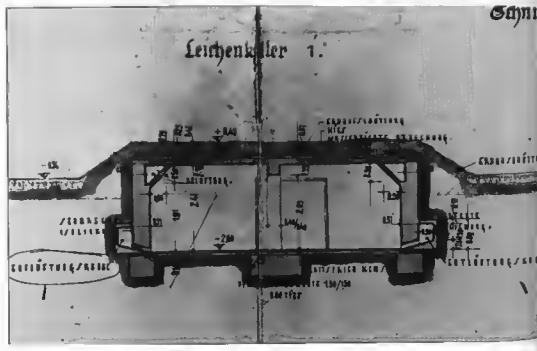
Project no. 7015

Scales 1:50 [Leichenkeller cross-sections] and 1:200 [Krematorium]

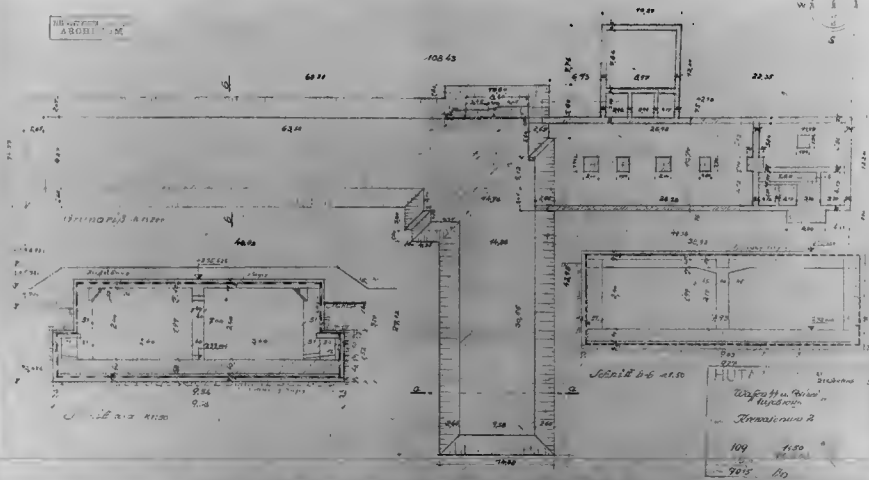
Translation of inscriptions:

- Grundriß/Plan
- Schnitt a-a/Cross-section a-a [Leichenkeller 1]
- Auffüllung/Earth bank
- Isolierung 3 Lagen/Damp-proofing 3 layers [floor]
- 2 Lagen/2 layers [walls]
- 1 Lagen/1 layer [roof]
- Schnitt b-b/Cross-section b-b [Leichenkeller 2]
- Isolierung 1 Lagen/Damp-proofing 1 layer [roof]
- 3 Lagen/3 layers [walls and floor]

Huta Sheet 13a shows details of the construction of Leichenkeller 1 and 2 and comparison with the cross-section of Leichenkeller 1 in Bauleitung drawing 934 (shown below the Huta drawing) reveals the main modification made: the thickening of the concrete floor. In addition, the upper ventilation duct was made of wood fixed to wooden battens attached to the ceiling. With a concrete floor, brick walls and a reinforced concrete roof covered with earth, wooden ventilation duct and bituminous felt damp-proofing, Leichenkeller 1 was certainly a composite structure, but it was very solid. Even on this regularization drawing, made long after Krematorium II was completed, neither the western nor the northern access stairways to Leichenkeller 2 are shown.



RECHENUNG
ABRISS

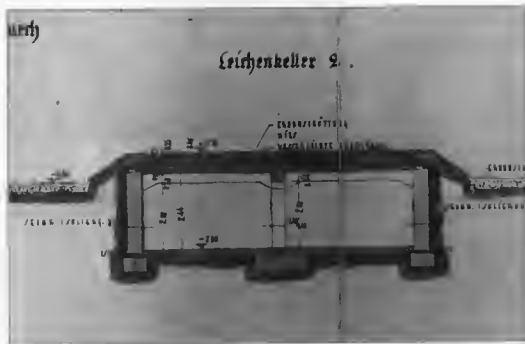


HUTA DRAWING 109/14A OF 21/9/43

[PMO Archives, file BW 30a/19, neg. no. 20922/11]

Bauherr: Waffen SS u. Polizei Auschwitz/Auschwitz Waffen SS and Police
 Bear. Krematorium 3/Subject: Krematorium 3 (III)
 Erdauhub/Excavation
 Technical no. 109, Sheet 14a
 Project no. 7015
 Scales 1:50 [Leichenkeller cross-sections] and 1:200 [Krematorium]

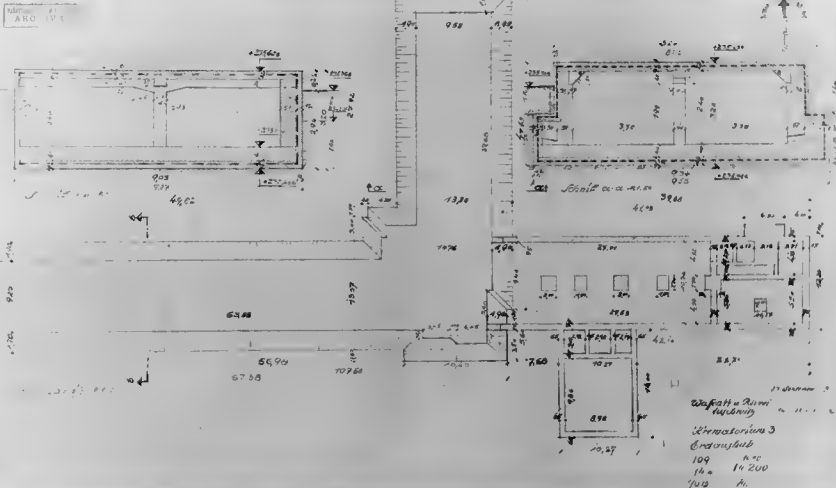
Huta Sheet 14a shows that the excavations for the Leichenkeller of Krematorium III had steeper sides than those of Kr II, which explains the difference in the surface dimensions. The length of the foundations of the annex wing is increased here from 12 metres for Kr II to 14 metres. The Huta cross-section of Leichenkeller 2 as compared with Bankeining drawing 934 (above the Huta drawing) shows a thickening of the concrete floor and a strengthening of the roof. On this drawing it would appear that the cross-beams are no longer deeper at the ends, where they join the walls, thus interfering less with the air-extraction duct. But on Sheet 16a, a cross-section of Leichenkeller 2 shows that the cross-beams ARE still thickened at the ends...



Translation of inscription(s)

Schnitt b-b/Cross section b-b [Leichenkeller 2]
 Grundriß/Plan view
 Schnitt a-a/Cross-section a-a [Leichenkeller 1]

FILED 198
A R C 1573



HUTA DRAWING 109/15 OF 24/9/43

[PMO Archives file BW 30a/17, neg. no. 20922/9]

Bauherr: Waffen SS u. Polizei Auschwitz/Auschwitz Waffen SS and Police
Betr.: Krematorium 2 (3)/Subject: Krematorium 2 (3) [II and III]
Kellergeschoß u. Fundamente/Basement and foundations
Technical no. 109, Sheet 15
Project no. 7015
Scale 1:100

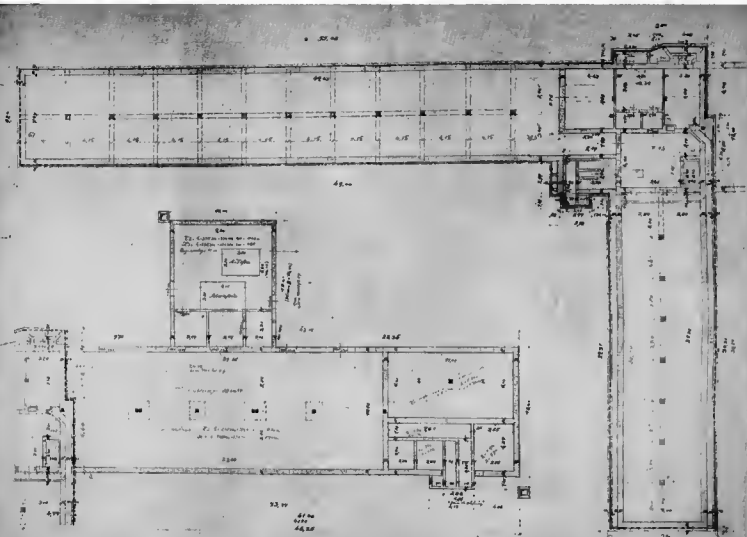
Translation of inscriptions:

- Kiesunterlager/Gravel fill
- Mülldekel/Waste incinerator
- Schornstein/Chimney
- Bodenauffüllung/Earth banking

Bemerkung/Note:

Die in () Klammern eingegebenen [7] Zahlen beziehen sich auf Krematorium III
The dimensions are more legible than on 932 and the lower ventilation ducting of Leichenkeller I can be seen more clearly.

Huta drawing 109/15, concerning both Krematorien II and III, was based on Bauleitung drawing 932 as amended by 1311. None of the rooms are labelled. The dimensions are more legible than on 932 and the lower ventilation ducting of Leichenkeller I can be seen more clearly.



Arch. Plan
No. 1 - Classroom building
Bldg. 1 - Classroom building - 1st floor

NO. 1

Classroom building
1st floor

Classroom building 2132
Classroom building 2132

1st floor

Bauherr: Waffen SS n. Polizei Auschwitz/Auschwitz Waffen SS and
Police
Betr.: Krematorium 2 (3)/Subject: Krematorien 2 (3) [II and III]
Erdgeschoß u. Schnitt/Ground floor and sections
Technical no. 109, Sheet 16a
Project no. 7015
Scale 1:100

Translation of Inscriptions:

- Schnitt/Section
- Querschnitt d.d. Keller/Leichenkeller cross-sections

Inscriptions on the ground floor plan:

- Im Keller Vollmauerwerk/Built into the basement wall brickwork [refers to the air extraction ducting for Leichenkeller 2]
- Im Dachgeschoß/dn the roof space [refers to the chimney containing the four air outlets of the Krematorien:
dissecting and washing rooms,
furnace room;
Leichenkeller 1]

Section 1-m:

- Kellerdecke/Basement roof

Section 4-k

- Betonplatten/Concrete slabs
Decke über Erdgeschoß/Ceiling over ground floor

Underneath the main identification block:

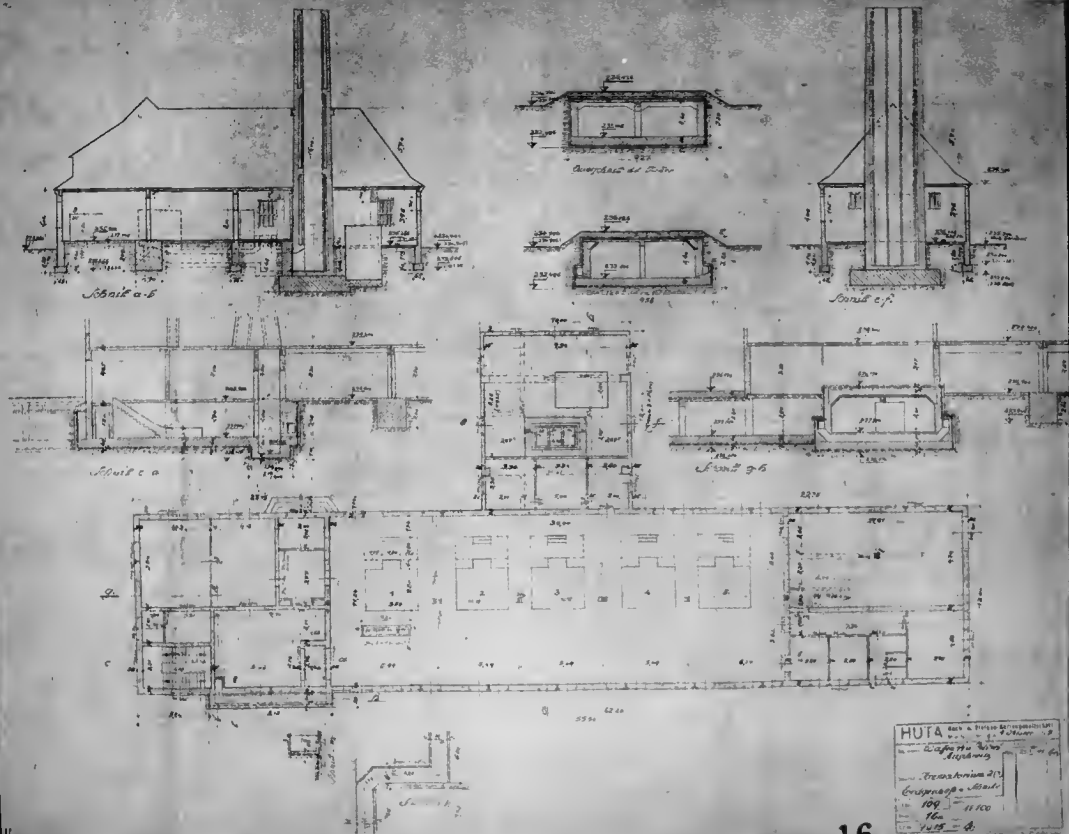
- Bemerkung/Note:
- Die in () klammern eingegebenen (?) Zahlen beziehen sich auf Krema. A/The figures in round brackets refer to Krematorium III

Huta drawing 109/16a concerns both Krematorium II and III. In producing it, Huta used the following Bauleitung drawings:

- Section a-b 934;
- Basement cross-sections, Leichenkeller 2 (above) and 1 (below); 934,
- Section c-1 probably from Bauleitung drawing 1434, not found,
- Section c-4: 1174, but with the floor thickness greatly increased,
- Section g-h: 1173/1174, omitting the front elevation of the future Kr II;
- Ground floor: 933, and 980 for the ventilation chimney;
- Section i-k and l-m: drawn by Huta on the basis of the relevant Bauleitung drawings. They show the exact trace and dimensions of the Leichenkeller 1 ventilation duct

The original dissecting room has been divided in two by a thin partition wall to create a smaller dissection room and a laboratory

Huta drawing 109/16a contains no «criminal traces» but gives details of the ventilation system of Leichenkeller 1 (poison gas chamber), in particular the fresh air duct.



Do sędzi

1. Komora gazowa nowego krematorium - w budowie budowy
2. Piece w krematorium - w drugim i trzecim krematorium
3. Krematorium czwarte lub piąte
4. - - - - - [289]*
5. Piece w krematorium - w drugim i trzecim krematorium
6. Bateria pieców krematorijskich
7. Krematorium II-gie lub III-gie w budowie
8. Krematorium II lub III
9. - - - - - [294]*
10. Krematorium IV lub V
11. Komora gazowa przy krematorium II lub III.
12. Krematorium IV lub V
13. Betonowe stromo i tożną grzewą kremat. II lub III
14. - - - - - [298]*
15. Kobiety przy pracy ziemnej
16. ditto / 2 statki
17. ditto
18. ditto
19. ditto
20. ditto
21. Kobiety przy pracy w kopalni żelaza
22. Władziska przy pracy przy nowych blokach więziennych
23. Władziska przy budowie szosy do krematorium IV i V
24. ditto
25. Władziska przy budowie szosy od stacji do obozu
26. ditto
27. Władziska przy pracach ziemnych
28. ditto
29. SS Hauptsturmführer Bischoff i SS Untersturmführer
30. Władziska przy budowie szosy
31. Władziska przy budowie kopalni
32. Władziska przy budowie szosy
33. Władziska przy pracach ziemnych
34. Widok na obóz z dala w Brzezince
35. Widok na obóz z dala w Brzezince
36. ditto
37. ditto
38. Władziska przy kopalni węgla
39. ditto
40. Widok na obóz z dala w Brzezince
41. Władziska przy budowie hali Kruppa
42. ditto
43. ditto
44. Władziska przy pracy ziemnej
45. Praca na obozie w Brzezince o ród wozów
46. ditto
47. Jedna z bram obozu
48. Władziska przy pracy w obozie Brzezinka
49. ditto
50. Władziska przy pracy ziemnej "Faulgaskommando"
51. Władziska i Władziska przy budowie nowych bloków więziennych
52. Władziska przy kopalni węgla i obozie w Brzezince

[Translation of page 31b of Volume 15 of the Host Trial, with the P340 negative number added afterwards in square brackets and an asterisk to indicate those concerning the Birkenau Krematorium.]

1. Gas chamber of the new Krematorium - under construction [286].*
2. Cremation furnaces - in the second or third Krematorium [287].*
3. Krematorium four or five [288].*
4. - - - - - [289].*
5. Cremation furnaces - in the second or third Krematorium [290].*
6. Battery of cremation furnaces [291].*
7. Krematorium II or III under construction [292].*
8. Krematorium II or III [293].*
9. - - - - - [294].*
10. Krematorium IV or V [295].*
11. Gas chamber near Krematorium II or III [296].*
12. Krematorium IV or V [297].*
13. Pouring the concrete roof over the gas chamber of Krematorium II or III [298].*
14. Pouring the concrete roof over the gas chamber of Krematorium II or III [299].*
15. Women working on site preparation [300].
16. ditto / 2 photos / [301].
17. ditto [302].
18. ditto [303].
19. ditto [304].
20. ditto [305].
21. Women working in a quarry, extracting gravel [306].
22. Prisoner working on the foundations of a Block [307].
23. Prisoners working on the road leading to Krematorium IV and V [308].*
24. ditto [309].*
25. Prisoners working on the road leading to the camp station [310].
26. ditto [311].
27. Prisoners working on site preparation [312].
28. ditto (duplicate of 17 above) [302].
29. SS Captain Bischoff and SS Second Lieutenant ... [in fact Dyjak] [313].*
30. Prisoners working on a road [314].
31. Prisoners working on a drainage ditch [315].
32. Prisoners working on a road [316].
33. Prisoners working on site preparation [317].
34. View of the women's camp at Birkenau [318].
35. View of the men's camp at Birkenau [319].
36. ditto [320].
37. ditto [321].
38. Prisoners digging a drainage ditch [322].
39. ditto [322].
40. Prisoners unloading wagons at the Bauhof [323].
41. Prisoners working on the construction of the Krupp Hall [324].
42. ditto [325].
43. ditto [326].
44. Prisoners @ work [on the construction of Krematorium III] [327].*
45. Part of the Birkenau camp in the midst of the marshes [328].
46. ditto [329].
47. One of the doors of the camp [330].
48. Prisoners at work in the Birkenau camp [331].
49. ditto [332].
50. Prisoners of the "Faulgaskommando" [sewer gas commando] at work [333].
51. Men and women prisoners working on the construction of new accommodations Blocks [334].
52. Prisoners digging a ditch for the district heating plant [335].

THE BAULEITUNG PHOTOGRAPHS OF KREMATORIEN II AND III

All the photographs presented here were taken by the same man, SS Sergeant Kaminski, but they come from two different sources, those "organized" by the former prisoner Lawin Ludwik and those found in the «Bauleitung Album», now held by the Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

Lawin Ludwik handed 52 photographs to the Polish judiciary and made the following first deposition, which appears of page 31 of Volume 15 of the Hörs Trial.

First deposition by Lawin Ludwik (summary made from the Polish original)

During the war, the Polish prisoner Lawin Ludwik was employed in the title Zentralbauleitung (Auschwitz-Wilken SS and Police Central Construction Management) photographic laboratory. SS Unterscharführer Kaminski, employed by the service and in charge of the laboratory, had a «Reitina» (Kodak «Reitina» 7) camera and could take photographs in the camp to document the building work in progress.

Ludwik noticed that among the developed rolls of film there were pictures of the buildings at Birkenau and realized that these photos could provide useful historical documentation on the camp.

While the SS man was absent, he made some very small prints in the dark room. In this way he personally «organized» fifty-nine prints covering different periods of Auschwitz (main camp) and Birkenau. He then enclosed them in two metal capsules which were in turn put in a bottle which was buried in August 1944 near to the third Bauleitung barracks block (outside the main camp).

At 12 o'clock on 25th September 1944, Ludwik dug up the bottle in the presence of a member of the Auschwitz State Museum (a body different from the present one, whose role from the spring of 1944, was to protect and preserve the premises with a view to organizing future exhibitions). Tadeusz Myszkowski. The prints were in good condition and are listed below.

This list in fact contains only fifty photographs, no. 28 being a duplicate of 17, and no. 39 having been forgotten. One of the missing photographs (since visible in the «Bauleitung Album», showing the south side of

Krematorium II and classified by the PMO under neg. no. 20995/504) is to be found in the Archives of the Warsaw Central Commission for research into Holocaust crimes in Poland.

Ludwik's list includes fifteen photographs of Birkenau Krematorium II, III and IV, and three others showing the building of a section of the «Ringstraße/Ring road» passing between Krematorium IV and V.

Ludwik subsequently completed his first deposition with a second, also to be found in Volume 15 of the Hörs Trial:

Second deposition by Lawin Ludwik (summary made from the Polish original)

Ludwik testifies as follows

During the winter of 1941-42, SS Sergeant Kaminski was worried about what was happening on the Eastern Front (7). At first, Kaminski was employed on the gardens and the transport of horses, then he took over the title photographic laboratory belonging to the Bauleitung. Lawin Ludwik worked there for two months, then was replaced by a professional photographer, called Kubicki, but still retained some influence, because he could speak German and the new man could not. Ludwik and his fellow prisoner Kubicki decided that they should «organize» some copies of the photographs, simply by making contact prints (underlined by the author: the simple process explains the small size of the prints and the poor quality of the enlargements made after the war). Two sets of prints were produced in this way. The first set was given to a certain Dubiel, but it is not known whether this prisoner survived or not. This set was buried in Hiles (the Camp Commandant's garden, because Dubiel was a gardener there. I was put in a sealed tube, but there was an accident and the tube was broken and the contents were taken by another prisoner. The second set was also buried

This second set was dug up near the Bauleitung barracks. These photos were then enlarged and used as incriminating evidence. Some of them had been exhibited on the walls of the Bauleitung building and appeared in several Albums of photographs which were given as presents to various high-ranking SS visitors.

This second deposition by Ludwik, which differs from the first in that he no longer claims to have acted alone in «organizing» the prints, gives two pieces of information that were subsequently corroborated:

1. The exhibition on the walls of the Bauleitung of photographs showing its achievements in the field of cremation facilities;
2. The production of several Albums of photographs of the buildings erected in the Auschwitz area, which were given as souvenirs to high-ranking SS visitors, no doubt to show off the «good work» being done by the members of the Bauleitung.

The first point was confirmed by SS Corporal Pery Broad of the Political Section of the camp in his affidavit of 20th October 1947, Document N° 11984 (Paris CDJC reference CLAV-37). Here is the seventh paragraph, translated from the German.

7. About January 1944, a panel carrying about 30 photographs was hung in the vestibule of the Auschwitz-Wilken SS and Police Central Construction Management offices. These photos showed the different phases of construction of the Birkenau Krematorium. Among others, there were views of long lines of cremation furnaces. On one which I can remember exactly, there was a row of 15 furnaces (actually the 15 muffle of the five three-muffle furnaces of Krematorium II). It was obvious that more than one corpse at a time could be burned in a single furnace (muffle). As I heard later, it was 5 to 7 corpses (actually 2 or 3) that were burned at a time. I would say these photographs were on show for made a week, during which time they were seen by many civilians from the construction firms dealing with the Bauleitung. I would imagine that the sight of so many cremation furnaces would convince any visitor that Auschwitz was an extermination camp. Although epidemics had broken out sporadically, they were limited in duration and such great expenditure on carefully planned, had never made for them. After about a week the photos were removed by show of the Camp Commandant, because going on like this would have compromised the secrecy.

Broad's account gives an idea of the number of photographs that had been taken of the four Krematoriums. «about thirty».

The second point was confirmed quite recently, at the beginning of 1982, when the Auschwitz Museum received from the Yad Vashem in Jerusalem a copy of an Album containing 397 photographs, which they had just bought from a German in Berlin, who and himself negotiated at first after the war from a Russian officer who and spent some time at Auschwitz. This Album, since known as the «Bauleitung Album», shows all the buildings constructed by the Bauleitung in the Auschwitz region. There are nineteen photos that concern the Birkenau Krematoriums. The are grouped together in four sheets: one

introductory with one photograph and the legend «Krematorium KGL», two sheets each with six photos and one with six remaining out of the original eight, two having been torn out, and one of which is a duplicate of that on the introductory sheet.

The Bauleitung Album contains eighteen photos of the four Birkenau Krematoriums, eight of which appear on Ludwik's list, while ten are new. In addition, the Bauleitung Album contains a photo of the south side of Krematorium II, fumaces working, under the heading «Prov. Erdkühlanlage an KGL/Provisional earth purification basins in the POW camp», while under the heading «Entwässerungsanlage mit Effektenbäckchen im KGL/Disinfection facility and effects barrels in the POW camp» (below as the «Zentral Sauna») a view of the southwest corner of the gas chambers of Krematorium IV and V can be obtained by enlarging a photo of the foundations.

In all, we now possess 15 + 10 + 2 = 27 different photos of the four Birkenau Krematoriums and 3 of the building of the road between Kr IV and V (of no great interest except for the location, and, on two of them, the presence of Buschhoff and Dejaco).

Of Broad's «about thirty» photos, twenty-five have been found. The arrangement of the prints on the pages of the Bauleitung Album, which are in the order in which they were taken, makes it possible to say that in fact ONLY ONE photo of the Krematorium is missing. This would be a view of the northwest corner of Krematorium II at the time it was officially handed over by the Bauleitung to the camp authorities.

The following sheets contain the nineteen known photos of Krematorium II and III, arranged chronologically from late summer 1942 to summer 1943, supplemented by two prints from Serge Klarsfeld's «Auschwitz Albums» taken during the extermination of the Hungarian Jews in May/June 1944.

The Leichenkeller of Krematorium II and III were excavated and built right at the beginning of the war in order to get them damp-proofed before the winter. This was managed just in time, but the roofs were not prepared and concreted until January 1943 for Krematorium II and later for Krematorium III. In the meantime a temporary roof was installed over the incomplete Leichenkeller 2 of Krematorium III, so that work could continue without being interrupted by rain or snow falls. This temporary roof did not cover the whole Leichenkeller, however, and it is said to be dried out when completed.



Photo
(PHO ref. no. 194 Lach-V series)

View of the east end and north side of Krasnoznamennik II. Incinerator worksite - BW 10 - probably taken in the second half of October 1942

The ground floor and ceiling of the main building are two thirds completed. The chimney is completed, but still has its scaffolding. The external walls of the waste incinerator room are completed, but it has no ceiling yet. In the right hand background is Lecherkafel 2 (future dressing room) also under construction. There is no sign of an access stairway at the northwest corner.



Photo
(PHO ref. no. 196 Lach-V series)

View of Lecherkafel 2 and the north wing, the waste incinerator room, with the collective chimney of Krasnoznamennik II, taken a few minutes after Photo 1. Inside also probably taken in the second half of October 1942.

In the foreground is the shell of Lecherkafel 2 in the course of being damp-proofed by a coat of brownish. Half of the north wall has just been treated. Another brick wall about 20 cm thick is to be built inside this damp proof layer. The [unspecified] floor of Lecherkafel 2 slopes gently up towards the western end of the main building which is one ym high. Narrow gauge rails (not visible here, but appearing on Photo 2) will later be laid to facilitate the transport of materials to the Lecherkafel.



Photo 3

[PWO neg. no. 380, Lubek series]

Southeast to northwest view of Leichenstiller 2 at Krematorium III. Bukovius work site «BW 30», probably taken on the same day as Photos 1 and 2 in the second half of October 1942.

The bluish-grey damp-proofing is being applied as to the Krematorium III Leichenstiller 2, but the south wall is not completed while the north wall is. Visible in the bottom right of the picture are the narrow gauge rails running from the *lagers* (storage rooms) in the bottom of the excavation – two rails which an SS train is proceeding. No western access stairway has been allowed for. It will not be built until March/April 1943.

The trees in the background still there today, make it possible to identify this as being Krematorium III. The small hut under the trees is present in other photos and enables them to be situated with certainty.

In the publication «KL Area Description: Photographic documents» (Warner 1993), this photo, no. 81 in the book, has a caption that is wrong on its content: «Bukovius working on the construction of the gas chamber at Krematorium IV in V (Photo: SS Kammer 1942)». Any historical research based on such misrepresentation is doubly useless. Furthermore, this kind of error can only confuse the viewer who is trying to understand.



Photo 4

[PWO neg. no. 190, Lubek series]

Southeast to northeast view of the altered completed furnace room at Krematorium II to the first half of January 1943. From left to right: Furnaces 1, 2, 3 and 4. The east end of 5 is visible on an electrical photo graph held in the Archives of the STATN ZH DOWSKI: MUZBLM V PRAZD/State Jewish Museum of Prague, Operation/Overson Section, neg. no. 34,7541 (right).

It is possible to distinguish between the furnace rooms of Krematorium II and III, absolutely identical, but earlier images, thanks to the position of the sun, which can show into the furnace front (except charging) side of the furnace room of Krematorium II only, through the double windows of its southern facade.

A comparison of the two prints shows that the PWO version has been retouched to emphasize the dark diagonal stripes on the vertical surfaces of the pressure on the left tool, for some unknown reason, to match the points of sunlight.

In the bottom right hand corner are the rails laid temporarily to facilitate the transport of materials to Leichenstiller 2. They were removed shortly after the photograph was taken.



Photo 4a



Photo 4

(PIMU neg. no. 787; Luedvik series; and 2099; 493; Kammann series)

Last west view of the furnace room of Krematorium II taken on the same occasion as Photo 4 in the first half of January 1943.

From right to left: the three muffle furnaces 4, 3, 2 and 1. The openings below the muffle doors were used to collect human ashes. The four small flaps on each furnace door at each end of the set of three doors, were used to regulate the draught. For this picture, Kammann had all the doors closed but they were open on the previous one's script for the centre door of furnace 3 (see note).

In the foreground, the shallow-sloped of the narrow gauge rails running down to Lochenkolter 21 are clearly to be seen. After the rails were removed, the floor was concreted.



Photo 5

(PIMU neg. no. 791; Luedvik series)

Westward view of the Krematorium II furnace room taken towards the end of January 1943, probably on the 25th or 26th, when the furnaces were being watched through before the inspection on 28th January by representatives of Topf & Sons, the manufacturers and members of the Bauleitung, the engineers. According to Prey, through the photo already had a camera lens at the time.

From left to right: three-muffle furnaces 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. The rectangular holes in the ceiling in front of each furnace were for ventilation. The three sets of 40 cm gauge rails set in the floor perpendicular to each furnace were for corpse-charging trolleys identical to those used in Krematorium I. Bottom right is part of the low trolley carrying the turntable used to position the charging trolley on the rails before the desired muffle. This mobile turntable moved on two angle joints about 80 cm apart set into the concrete floor running at right angles to the other sets of rails and thus leading them. The charging trolleys were subsequently abandoned in favour of the simple and easier to use 1 metre turntables. Despite the fact that they were of course the likes of rails were left in place (and are still to be seen today). On the other hand the turntable rails running the length of the room were removed and the space was converted into a shallow concrete trough that was filled with water so that bodies could be easily slid along it from the 1 metre lift to the furnaces.

At the far end of the furnace room is the door to the corridor leading to the Topf's stores, the furnace room store, the WC and shower and the prisoners' rest room. The stairs to the roof space are just beyond the entrance to the corridor on the left. The electricity supply was 3-phase installed, but the lamps do not seem to be in place yet.

The incineration capacity of the five three-muffle furnaces of type IV/III was established in 1943-46 by the technical «experts» engaged by the two Commissioners (first Soviet, then Polish) Professor Dawidowski in line with the accounts of Lonner Sonderkommando men, as being 2,500 corpses a day, which they claimed could be pushed up to as many as 5,000.

These figures, such as the incineration capacity being 18,000 a day and capable of peaks of 24,000, the maximum gassing capacity of the extermination instruments being estimated at 60,000 in 24 hours and the total number of victims being 4 million, are now recognized as being «emotional» figures, bearing no relation to reality and resulting from the shock of unbelievable events that were still very close to time.

Messrs Topf & Sons, who had supplied the three-muffle furnaces, claimed that a battery of five would have a normal «productivity» of 720 corpses in 24 hours. Their designer, the Topf chief engineer Kurt Prüfer, estimated that the actual yield of his three-muffle furnaces had exceeded his expectations by one third, reaching almost one thousand cremations a day for a type IV/III Krematorium.

The figure of 1,440 for Krematorium II or III officially communicated by the Auschwitz SS to their superiors at the end of June 1943 is a purely administrative figure, obtained by calculation. In the non-crucial plans for this type of Krematorium, formulated at the end of December 1941, the cremation rate was to be 60 corpses per hour, so once the installation was completed the capacity must be 60 x 24 hours = 1,440 per day. It was unthinkable to admit that the actual result was less than this, and indeed any lesser figure might be interpreted as sabotage. This rate of cremation, over one third higher than Prüfer's figure, was based on absolutely flat out working 24 hours a day. Even if it was attainable in practice it could not be maintained for long without causing damage to the installation an necessitating a shut down for repairs.

The Buchenwald concentration camp had two three-muffle furnaces of the same model as the ten in Birkenau. At the liberation, those at Birkenau no longer existed, having been dismantled in December 1944, while those at Buchenwald were intact. To this day, there has never been a comparative study of this type of furnace to find out what the actual throughput was. Despite this lack, the present state of knowledge makes it reasonable to say that the daily throughput of Krematorium II or III would have been in the order of 1,000 corpses, whereas the official publications indicate a minimum of 1,440 (based on the SS letter of 28th June 1943), a figure already considerably inflated (by well over a third), and a maximum of 5,000, a figure which is technically impossible and is simply a reflection of the emotional context of the immediate post liberation period.



Photo 7:
[PMO neg. no. 20945/505, Kamman series]

View of the east end and north side of Krematorium II, taken between 20th and 22nd January 1945. On the east end of the main building, from left to right, are the double windows of the prisoners' rest room, in which Dr Miklós Nyilasi and his associates lived in the summer of 1944, the single window of the fuel store and its double door. The last of these dormer windows has not yet been tiled. The area around the collective chimney and the angle between the east and north sides of the roof of the waste incineration room also still have to be tiled.

The north side of the chimney has a metal inspection ladder built on it. The four lightning conductors are in place in the eaves of each side of the chimney.

There is no view of the roof as from the third dormer window, for the reason given in the comment on **Photo 8** below.



Photo 8:
[PMO neg. no. 20995/508, Kamman series]

View of the north side of Krematorium II, with in front of it Leichenkeller 1 (the latrine gas chamber), taken on a southwesterly aspect line on the same day as **Photo 7**, i.e. between 20th and 22nd January 1945.

On the extreme left two workmen are using the roof. Kamman photographed only the part of the building where the tiling was nearly finished. The dormer windows are in place, their edges waiting to be tiled.

The brick air intake chimney for Leichenkeller 1 is completed and the collective chimney containing the air extraction ducts for Leichenkeller 2, the washing room and laboratory, the furnace room and Leichenkeller 1 is under construction.

Furnaces 1, 2, 3 and 4 (but not 5) are being warmed through to dry them out, as can be seen by the fact that there is no snow on the actual part of the roof. In the right foreground the structure of Leichenkeller 1 is complete including the roof. The chimneys through which the Zyklon-B was passed were installed later and the roof was covered with an earth bank.

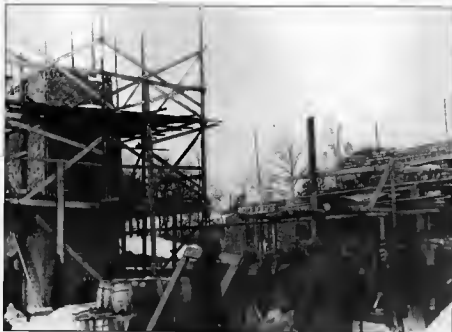


Photo 9

[FMO neg. no. 327, Lubov's letter and 20945-092, Karsenen series]

View of the central part of Krematorium III, Barbenau worksite - BW 30a, on a south-eastern horizon line taken between 20th and 22nd January 1943

From left to right: the collective chimney for all the furnaces at a height of about 8 metres, about half its final height covered by snow; the temporary roof protecting Leichenkeller 2 (the future underground room 2); on the centre, the western end of the northern ground floor wall; finally, on the right, the southern wall under construction

At its base, the collective chimney had three openings to which the underfloor furnace flues led (the one visible here is for the flues from crematorium furnace 5 and the waste incinerator) and which were subsequently covered over. Higher up, there were three rectangular openings (one is visible here) connected with the traction type I forced-draught system, which was never actually installed at Krematorium III because of the problems encountered with it in K. II.

This photo is incorrectly presented to Anusch by the Mauthausen publications as showing «Prisoners employed on the construction of the Barbenau industrial premises»



Photo 10

[FMO neg. no. 20945-090, Karsenen series]

View looking westwards of the central part (from entrance road) of Krematorium III (BW 30a), under construction, taken on the same day as Photo 9, hence between 20th and 22nd January 1943. Karsenen left in the snow-covered temporary roof protecting Leichenkeller 2. Above this is the north wall of the building, with at the far end, visible almost as dotted lines, the places where the ends of the partition walls of the rooms of the new crematorium building are to fit. The roof wall is under construction, as is the chimney, which has reached about half of its final height of 10 metres.

A few days later, Karsenen climbed to the first stage of the chimney scaffolding to photograph the temporary roof of Leichenkeller 2 (Photo 12 below)

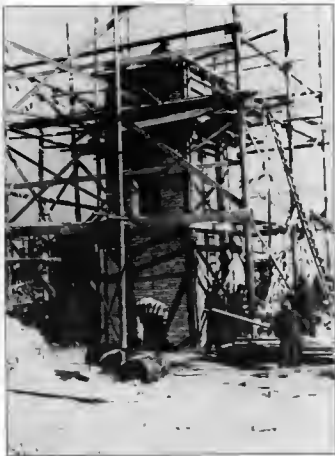


Photo 11

[PMO neg. no. 20965-693 Kamensk series]

View looking southwards/northwards of the collective chimney of Krematorium III north a few days later than Photos 9 and 10, probably on 25th or 26th January

The chimney does not seem to have increased in height, but is still about 11 metres. Perfectly suitable on the near ideal site the chimney are the openings for the flues from furnaces 1 and 2 at the base and that for the forced draught system, never to be used, above.

This type of scaffolding was still used today in Poland where standard easily erected steel scaffolding is in short supply.



Photo 12

[PMO neg. no. 299 Endbott series and 20964-693 Kamensk series]

End/best view of the temporary roof of Leichenkeller 7 (the future dressing room) of Krematorium III, probably taken on 25th or 26th January 1943 (Kamensk took this picture from the first stage of the chimney self-folding).

From left to right, some of the wooden scaffolding, the temporary roof of Leichenkeller 2, with the northwest corner slightly sagging, the small hut in the trees confirming the identification of Krematorium III, the wooden framework for the last two supporting pillars of the lattice more with their bases, ready for the concrete to be poured, lastly, on the right, the western end of the north wall.

This photo proves that at the end of January 1943, the main access stairway to the future dressing room was not yet started. In fact, since the temporary roof did not cover the whole of Leichenkeller 2, the wooden corner where it was to be located can easily be seen (greyish triangle centre left). No space has been left in stone in the west wall, which is complete as in Photo 3) (incorrect identification of the photograph prevents this type of research or observation and means that the progressive changes made in Krematorium II and III are unknown or denied).

Between the north wall and the future access pillars are the rails running between the lattice room and Leichenkeller 2, partly some covered, implying they are no longer used.



Photo 13

[PHO neg. no 293, Lufw. series and 20955-087, Kammer series]

View of the west end (right) and north side of Kremsatorium II, probably taken on 25th or 26th January 1943.

The tilting of the roof on the western part has just been completed. But snow still remains in the dune on the north wing (ventilator rooms). The ventilation chimneys are completed, but they were to be made higher at a later date. The fumigations do not appear to be final.



Photo 14

[PHO neg. no 293, Lufw. series and 20955-088, Kammer series]

View of the western end of Kremsatorium II, taken shortly before Photo 13, dated 25th or 26th January 1943.

It shows the snow being cleared from the roof of Leichenkeller 2 (the future undressing rooms) before the pouring of the final layer of concrete. The damp-proofing of Leichenkeller 2 had already been completed.

On either side of the ladder leading on the west wall (also visible on Photo 13) are the double windows of the laboratory where Dr Möhlen Nymph and other doctor prisoners performed autopsies for Dr Mengele.

This picture is often presented in Auschwitz Museum publications as being the roof of the gas chamber (Leichenkeller I) of Kremsatorium III, a doubly incorrect identification.



Photo 15
(PMO neg. no 20945-PM Kaiwani arrival)

East/west view of the furnace room ceiling of Krummhorn III (BW 30a), asbestos concreting was in progress, probably between 9th and 11th February 1943.

On the left is part of the wooden scaffolding for the chimney. In the background the group of train tracks is possible to identify the building as being definitely Krummhorn III.

The scene is the top of the furnace room ceiling, which was to become the floor of the roof space, where about one hundred Sonderkommando men working in Krummhorn III were housed in the summer of 1944. In front of the chimney there is a portable conveyor belt used to carry materials up from the ground. It is also visible in **Photo 16**.

The concreting in progress is typical of the way work was done on Krummhorn II and III. First in the morning and composition of the gang, a mixture of prisoners and civilian workers (probably Dutch employees) in the proportion of about two to one, and in the allocation of the work, the prisoners being labourers while the civilians are supervisors or do the more skilled jobs. The prisoners there were relatively well-dressed and housed (better clothes and not coverings). The SS men in present, except for Kaiwani behind the corner.



Photo 16
(PMO neg. no 292, Lubell series)

Southeast/northeast view of the west end and south side of Krummhorn III, taken just before or just after **Photo 15** probably between 9th and 11th February 1943.

The chimney is completed. On the furnace room ceiling, partly hidden by the chimney, the mixed group of prisoners and civilians seen in **Photo 15** is at work. Beyond the chimney is the mobile conveyor belt.

The poor quality of this print as compared with **Photo 15** is due to its being an enlargement of one of the electrostatic contact prints made by Lubell.

David Offer, a former Sonderkommando member, reproduced this stage of the construction of Krummhorn III very exactly from memory in 1945 or 1946, but looking southeast/northeast.



Photo 17

Photo 17 and 17a

[PND says, no. 20895/494. Kananis writes: "This photo is also in the Archives of the Warsaw Central Commission for research into Hitlerian crimes in Poland," but as it was never identified or communicated to the Auschwitz Museum, it remained unexploited until it was rediscovered in the Bauleitung Album.]

Southwest view of the greater part of the south side of Krematorium II and Leichenkeller I (gas chambers, not yet covered with earth, taken on the same day as Photos 15 and 16, probably between 9th and 11th February 1943)

Photo 17a, with the explanatory inscriptions by the author, is taken from the *Auschwitz Album*. (Informations de Srecl, page 211).

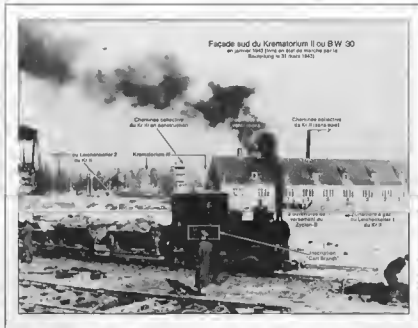
This photo provides the following information:

The height of the ventilation chimneys of Krematorium II has been increased above that of Photo 15

- The furnaces had not yet been working at full capacity because there are no soot stains on the collective chimney.
- Leichenkeller I has only 3 of the 4 openings for pouring Zyklon-B with which it was finally filled. Being about 55 to 60 cm above the roof, they were later covered to a depth of about 45 cm with gravel and earth, so that only 10 to 15 cm remained visible. This would explain why they did not smoulder much when the gas gave out and why they are so indistinct in the next Photo, though this seems to be in contradiction with aerial photos taken by the Americans in 1944 which show them to be higher.

[The latest interpretation of these openings by Robert Faurstmann should be mentioned: they are simply ventilation chimneys. In that case what was wrong with the ventilation and extraction systems installed in Leichenkeller I? What is more, he does not take into account that the SS designated them in writing as «were made introduction devices» closed by a wooden lid. What ventilation can there be if they are closed by lids?

In the foreground is a narrow-gauge locomotive belonging to Meissner Carl Brandt of Magdeburg, for which an order for the repair of a condensation valve has been found in the correspondence concerning the construction of Krematorium II and III. This firm worked at Birkenau on the drainage and sewerage ditches and the laying of narrow-gauge railways to facilitate the transport of the materials required for enlarging the camp (for example, work on T A, III, according to Brandt drawing B158 of 15.7.43).



Façade sud du Krematorium II ou BW 30
en janvier 1943 (pris en état de marche par la
Bauleitung le 31 mars 1943)

Cheminée collective
du Kr II en construction

Cheminée collective
du Kr III sans toit

Leichenkeller 2
du Kr II

Krematorium II

3 ouvertures de
versement du
Zyklon-B

Cheminée à gaz
du Leichenkeller I
du Kr II

Inscription
«Carl Brandt»

Photo 17a

Translation of inscriptions:

- Façade sud du Krematorium II ou BW 30/South side of Kr II or BW 30
en janvier 1943 (pris en état de marche par la Bauleitung le 31 mars 1943/in January 1943 (handed over in working order by the Bauleitung on 31st March 1943)
- Vestibule ou Leichenkeller 2 du Kr II/Undressing room or Leichenkeller 2 of Kr II
- Cheminée collective du Kr III en construction/Collective chimney of Kr III under construction
- Krematorium III
- Cheminées des vestibules/Ventilation chimneys
- Cheminée collective du Kr II (sans toit)/Collective chimney of Kr II (with no roof stains)
- 3 ouvertures de versement du Zyklon-B/3 openings for pouring Zyklon-B
- Cheminée à gaz ou Leichenkeller 1 du Kr II/Gas chamber or Leichenkeller 1 of Kr II
- Inscription «Carl Brandt»



Photo 17 bis

Photos 17 bis and 17 bis a:

[PMO ref. no 2095460, Kamann series: A - Baubering Album - photograph appearing just under the heading: 'Krematorium', but under: 'Proz. Erbblutologie an KGL/Provincial earth basin sewage plant in PGH camp.]

South/north view of the greater part of the south side of Krematorium II, probably taken in summer 1943

As there has never been any camouflage around Krematorium II and III, except in the imagination of traditional historians, when Kamann photographed 'Kläranlage I/Sewage treatment plant I', he necessarily also photographed Krematorium II with its scene: basement gas chamber, given the proximity of the building to the crematorium furnaces.

The Krematorium had already been at work, as we can see by the soot at the top of the chimney. On the left, on the roof edge, a part of the collective air outlet chimney, now twice as high as on Photo 13.

Just below the 7th double window of the furnace room is the gas chamber with its Zyklon-B introduction chimneys scarcely visible. Under the 1st and 2nd windows, surrounded by a low wall, is the small yard where the robes of the victims were thrown before being disposed in the Vindas or the Sals.

As compared with the inventory drawings of Krematorium II, an unplanned chimney has appeared for the heating stove of the room known as the Capo's room, but which was in fact used by the SS. The tops of the windows of the Capo's room and the adjoining furnace stoves now bear the traces of a recent fire.

Photos 17 bis a is taken from the 'Album d'Archiviste', already cited, with inscriptions by the author

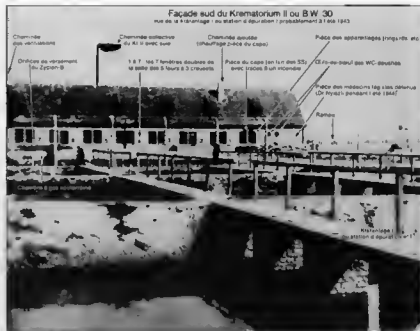


Photo 17 bis a

Translation of inscriptions:

Façade sud du Krematorium II ou BW 30/South side of Kr II or BW 30
vue de la Kläranlage I ou station d'épuration I probablement à l'été 1943/Seen from Kläranlage I or sewage treatment plant I probably in summer 1943

Cheminée des ventilations/Ventilation chimney

Orifices de versement du Zyklon-B/Openings for pouring Zyklon-B

Chambre à gaz souterraine/Underground gas chamber

Cheminée collective du Kr II avec suie/Collective chimney of Kr II with soot stains

1 à 7- les 7 fenêtres doubles de la salle des 5 fours à 3 creusets/1 to 7- the 7 double windows of the room with the 5 3-muffle furnaces

Cheminée ajoutée (chauffage pièce du capo)/Added chimney (heating for capo's room)

Pièce du capo (en fait des SS) avec traces d'une incendie/Capo's room (in fact used by the SS) with traces of a fire

Pièce des appareils (ringards, etc.)/Furnace iron store

Ocils de bœuf des WC-douches/Bull's-eye windows of WC-shower room

Pièce des médecins légistes détenus (Dr Nysztz pendant l'été 1944)/Prisoner dissectionists' room (Dr Nysztz during summer 1944)

Rampe/The ramp

Kläranlage I ou station d'épuration I/Kläranlage I or sewage treatment plant I



Photo 16
(PMG neg. no. 20901-537) *Ramona series*

View of the western end and south side of Krasnodar III, BW 30a, at the time of its official handing over to the camp administration by the Basilevich on 25th June 1943

This photo, with explanatory inscriptions by the author, was published in the *Aan Inzette Album* (Edizione de Sted, page 217).

The two Zyklon-B introduction chimneys, located on alternate sides of the roof (unlike Krasnodar II, where they are in a straight line down the centre), are almost impossible to distinguish, despite the excellent quality of the print

In the foreground, in front of the barbed wire fence surrounding Krasnodar III, is the entrance of the no 1 railway track, going past the camp, which was used for shunting operations.

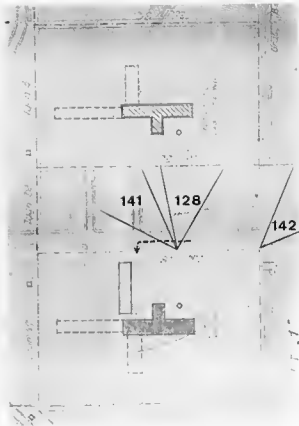




Photo 20



Photo 19

Photos 19 (upper right) and 20 (upper left)

[These photos are from Sergei Klavdiev's «*Antschwitz Album*» where **Photo 19** is numbered 128 and **Photo 20** is [41] or 145, the two being identical except for the amount of background shown. [41] has been chosen here precisely for the depth of background.]

The two pictures, classified under the heading «*Nicht mehr arbeitsfähig*» (These Prisoners, Kapos'k's wives and children not capable of being employed), were taken one after the other, fixing the two groups between Kermasterum II and III (the entire part of the latter being visible on **Photo 19**), the SS photographer having his back to the inside a few meters away from the barbed wire fence surrounding Kermasterum II, the gate to which is just on his left. To show the true locations of the two points with respect to their backgrounds, they should have a space of about 15 cm between them.

These are the last pictures taken of people about to enter Kermasterum II. The photographer did not take pictures in the Kermasterum grounds or inside the building itself. His visual report was concerned with those about to be exterminated, not the technique employed, which was known to all the SS.

Given this gap in the photographic evidence (whatever the reason for it) Robert Pamenson explains that these people are simply «passing by» on their way to the Zentral Sauna where medically examined, shaved, deloused and showered, before being integrated into the camp or transferred elsewhere. He thus implies that their presence between the two Kermasterums is simply a consequence of the route taken, and is therefore perfectly normal, if not commonplace.

Admittedly an essay «*Antschwitz Album*» photographs, the SS photographer made people stop and sometimes even completely round for the sake of the picture, but ingenuously one or more of the group did not obey (through fatigue, incomprehension, or deliberately) and remained facing where they were going when the photo was taken.

In the «*Antschwitz Album*», photo [42], taken before the two prisoners here, shows women and children walking, not on the «*Hauptstraße*» Main road, but leaving it to go off at an angle towards the grounds of Kermasterum II. The women and children on **Photo 19** [128] are not «passing by». They are stopped, three bodies facing west and three heads turned to the south, to watch the photographer. Those on **Photo 20** [141] have three bodies turned facing the entrance to Kermasterum II, situated in the extension of the path leading from the gate of Kermasterum III (visible in the right hand background). They too have their heads turned to watch the photographer.

The more 35 women and their children on these two photographs have only about two hours to live.



Photo 21
[PMO arg. no. 826]

Sketch of Krematorium II from the northwest/southeast view, drawn in 1945 by a member of the Soviet Commission and based on the Bauleitung project drawings 916 and 937 of 15/1/42.

As it was based on early drawings and not the inventory drawing 2197 of 19.3.43, it contains a number of inaccuracies:

1. No enclosed yard behind the waste incinerator wing.
2. No ventilation or air extraction chimneys.
3. No northern access stairway to the basement.
4. No wall extending the north wall to prevent earth from the bank on the roof of Leichenkeller 2 sliding into the above stairway.
5. The shadows on the building are decidedly incorrect: as shown in the sketch, the west end seems to be to the north and the north wing in the east, in fact corresponding to the location originally planned in the Auschwitz mass camp. But even for the original location, the angles of the shadows are incorrect, placing the concentration north too far east!

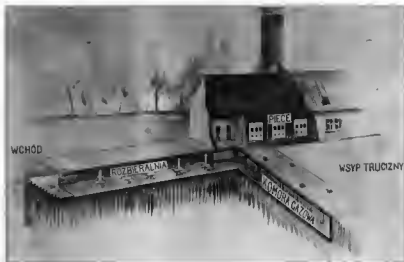


Photo 22
[PMO arg. no. 827]

Cut-away drawing of Krematorium II, looking south-east/north-east, probably produced in 1945 by a member of the Soviet Commission and subsequently labelled as Polish.

Translation of inscriptions.

- WCHOD/Entrance
- ROZBIERALNIA/Undressing room
- KOMORA GAZOWA/Gas chamber
- WSYF TRUCZNY/Pouring of poison
- PIECE/Furnace

This drawing also unfortunately contains several errors which were subsequently reproduced in the plaster models now exhibited by the Auschwitz Museum on the first floor of Block 4, the «Extermination» section.

- The western access stairway to Leichenkeller 2 should be further north.
- The openings for pouring Zyklon-B were not staggered as shown here (and as in Krematorium III), but were in a straight line, between the central pillars supporting the roof of Leichenkeller 1;

Between the WC/shower room of the laboratory (which had only one door, not two as shown here), were the corpse washing room and the lift, forgotten here. The model of Krematorium II visible in Block 4 is based on this first representation of the functioning of a Krematorium.

THE PLASTER MODEL OF KREMATORIUM II EXHIBITED
ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF BLOCK 4,
«EXTERMINATION» SECTION

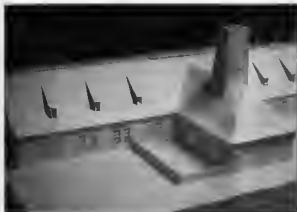


Photo 23

Northeast/southwest view of the north side, with in the center the enclosed yard where the «wastes» from the crematory (personal papers and other effects of the victims) in the SSs were stored awaiting incineration. In summer 1944 this yard was covered with a lean to roof supported by the east side of the main roof in order to protect the waste from the rain.

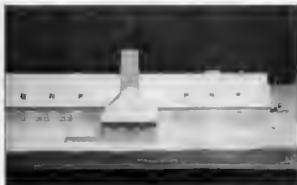


Photo 24

View of the north wing containing the waste incinerator and the collective chimney with its three flues.

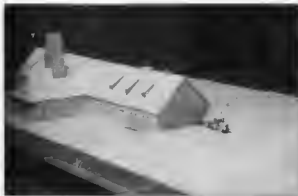


Photo 27

View of the west side and north side. On the right is Leichenkeller 2 and in the background, 3rd of the 4 Zyclon-B introduction chimneys in the roof of Leichenkeller 1 can be seen. These are suggested on the model, as errors due to not having known about the Austrian aerial photographs. The ventilation and an extraction chimneys on the roof ridge are modelled on Photo 13 (because they were built highest) (P340) (arg. no. 24/1)



Photo 26

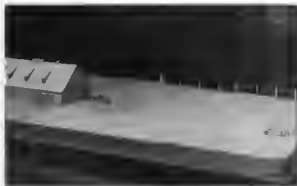


Photo 24

In the foreground is Leichenkeller 2, the underground room, with a few people going down the western stairway. In the background on the left is Leichenkeller 1, the gas chamber, with just two of the Zyclon-B introduction chimneys visible.



Photo 25

Western end of the building, north side, with in the rear end of Leichenkeller 2. In the foreground is the access wayway to the barracks from the north yard. Before in first row was the window looking the «Barracks» protected by a metal grill. The presence of a truck loaded with corpses is an error, but since it was not possible to use the corpse chair, the tower and having been blocked off by a wooden wall.

AUSCHWITZ WAFFEN SS AND POLICE CENTRAL CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

tenant on Bischoff's left is Dejaco, the head of the Drawing Office. At the beginning of 1943 there were seventeen people employed in this Office: its Head, Dejaco; a Sergeant, Ulmer, who drew the first drawings of the future Krematorium II; two civilian workers; two privates working on technical drawings of a certain complexity; and, lastly, ten prisoners working on drawings of the POW camp and making prints. The fifteen known Auschwitz-Birkenau SS Second Lieutenants are

Those whose names are underlined participated in various ways in the construction of the four Birkenau Krematorien, but the others were all perfectly well aware of their - abnormal - purpose (in the list showing the allocation of work covering the whole camp among the members of the Banleitung, there appears in brackets under the heading of section II - *Banleitung des Kriegsgefangenenlagers* - the explanation - *(Durchführung der Sonderbehandlung/Implementation of special treatment)*.)

[Photo 2]. This list was circulated to everybody



4. Volumen: 22.03.1110
b) 'Landkarte' oft Ausweise

$$H^1(\mathbb{R}^n, \mathbb{R}) \cong \mathbb{R}^n$$

Bu. vol. 5-1 72.2. 111.

Agave 446 r

subvolume 6.2 will

Fifth page of a six page document listed the allocation of work at the main camp and Brekenau between the members of the Bauleitung. Undated, but probably drawn up in March or April 1942. From the "Großdeutsches Central State Archives in Münster"

The Auschwitz Banleitung numbered on average about one hundred people, SS and civilians, and employed an unknown number of prisoners. **All the SS were NCOs or officers, mainly NCOs (Sergeants).** The only known cases of three Banleitungs SS who were Privates for a while before being promoted are simply exceptions confirming the rule. The break-down of SS and civilian staff was as follows.

10% Officers: one Captain and fifteen Second Lieutenants, one of whom, Jodanis, was to become Lieutenant and Head of the Banleitung in 1944.

15% civilian employees (helping the young Second Lieutenants through their long experience and participating actively in the projects under construction, like Z.A. (Zivilarbeiter/Civilian worker) Teichmann, who signed «criminal» orders for the Birkenau Krematorien).

35% senior NCOs: about thirty Sergeants, with a few Staff Sergeants, Senior Staff Sergeants and Master Sergeants;

40% junior NCOs, Acting Corporals and Corporals, among them men with qualifications who were often promoted Second Lieutenant (Spezialist).

In mid 1942, a new Banleitungs hut was built as an annex to the main building (Photo 3).

Buschhoff and Dejaco knew exactly what they had planned, and visited the Birkenau work sites on many occasions to inspect progress, on the four Krematorien. Photo 4 shows them together, in the summer of 1942, watching prisoners working on the «Rangstraße/Ring road» passing between the future Krematorien IV and V.

The catalogue of drawings from July 1940 to January 1942 (PMO file BW 1/4) shows that as of this latter date, a little over two thousand drawings had been produced. However, this figure does not mean that the Banleitungs was making great efforts to improve the camp for the benefit of the prisoners, for half of these drawings are concerned with **facilities for the SS and for the SS alone**, such things as private houses, gardens, pergolas, the «Waffen-SS House», various messes, furniture and sundry other things to make their life at Auschwitz more pleasant.



Photo 3
[PMO neg. no. 20905-138]

Part of the structure of the new Banleitungs annex



Photo 4
[PMO neg. no. 212]

SS Captain Buschhoff (hands on hips) and SS Second Lieutenant (1st Deputy) with a folded drawing under his right arm: inspecting work on the «Ring road» between the future Krematorien IV and V in summer 1942

[illegible]

Photo 8

KONRAD SEGNIßZ · BAUGESCHAFT

Berlin 68. Wilmersd., Carl Plutz, Bauingenieur Lindenstr. 38

entworfen Holz- und Eisen-Sperende, Vollmer-Bauweise
und Plan Schichten, Längs- und Querschnitte, Decken und Böden, Dachstuhl, Konstruktionen

gezeichnet Eingang: Datum Zeichnung: Unterschrift: Datum:

im Zeichen 2.002/1942 25.12.1942 1/1/1 24. Dezember 1942.

Einzelbauzeichnungen im K.O.-R.

An-
die Zentralbeuleitung der
Werken SS und Polizei,
Auechulte O/S

Ich beziehe mich auf den Besuch meines Herrn Plutz vom
22.12.42 und nach zur Kenntnis, dass Sie in der Einzelbauzeichnung
11. Zeichnung Blatt Nr. 1367 in dem 48,00 m langen Teil nunmehr eine
Decke aus Heraklitplatten verwenden sollen. Da die schon vorhanden
Holzboisungen nicht mehr zu ändern ist beabsichtigt, die
Bänder nicht wie vorgesehen mit 1,33 m Abstand sondern mit 1,093 m
Abstand voneinander aufzubringen. Dieser wurden benötigt 36 Felder
mit 35 Bändern. Jetzt kommen infrage 44 Felder mit 43 Bändern. Also
8 Stück Bänder mehr.

Die Holzboisungen bleiben im übrigen die gleichen, wie
in der Holzboisung vorgesehen. Außerdem kommen noch 1300 lfdm Latten
4/6 cm stark zum Anbringen der Heraklitplatten hinzu.

- 2 -

BR 30/26

Plant no. 4

- 2 -

Ich lege Ihnen bei in 3-facher Ausfertigung abge-
künderte Zeichnung Blatt Nr. 1361 und statische Berechnung
2 Seiten stark ebenfalls in 3-facher Ausfertigung.

Hell Hitler!

Baugeschäft Konrad Segnitz
Eisenbeton- u. Hochbau-
Telef. 4478 Beythens O/S. Lohndienst 33

6. Anlagen

11/11/11

BAUTISCHER
A 2011

BW 30/29

Photo 9

Anweisung . am 27. 8. 1942.

Bestimmung
Zentral-Bauleitung
der Waffen-44 u. Polizei
Auftrag O/S. Anordnungen auf der Baustelle

am 27. 8. 1942 zu 42. Wie wurde folgendes angedacht:
 (1) 68
 (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i) (j) (k) (l) (m) (n) (o) (p) (q) (r) (s) (t) (u) (v) (w) (x) (y) (z) (aa) (ab) (ac) (ad) (ae) (af) (ag) (ah) (ai) (aj) (ak) (al) (am) (an) (ao) (ap) (aq) (ar) (as) (at) (au) (av) (aw) (ax) (ay) (az) (ba) (bb) (bc) (bd) (be) (bf) (bg) (bh) (bi) (bj) (bk) (bl) (bm) (bn) (bo) (bp) (bq) (br) (bs) (bt) (bu) (bv) (bw) (bx) (by) (bz) (ca) (cb) (cc) (cd) (ce) (cf) (cg) (ch) (ci) (cj) (ck) (cl) (cm) (cn) (co) (cp) (cq) (cr) (cs) (ct) (cu) (cv) (cw) (cx) (cy) (cz) (da) (db) (dc) (dd) (de) (df) (dg) (dh) (di) (dj) (dk) (dl) (dm) (dn) (do) (dp) (dq) (dr) (ds) (dt) (du) (dv) (dw) (dx) (dy) (dz) (ea) (eb) (ec) (ed) (ee) (ef) (eg) (eh) (ei) (ej) (ek) (el) (em) (en) (eo) (ep) (eq) (er) (es) (et) (eu) (ev) (ew) (ex) (ey) (ez) (fa) (fb) (fc) (fd) (fe) (ff) (fg) (fh) (fi) (fj) (fk) (fl) (fm) (fn) (fo) (fp) (fq) (fr) (fs) (ft) (fu) (fv) (fw) (fx) (fy) (fz) (ga) (gb) (gc) (gd) (ge) (gf) (gg) (gh) (gi) (gj) (gk) (gl) (gm) (gn) (go) (gp) (gq) (gr) (gs) (gt) (gu) (gv) (gw) (gx) (gy) (gz) (ha) (hb) (hc) (hd) (he) (hf) (hg) (hh) (hi) (hj) (hk) (hl) (hm) (hn) (ho) (hp) (hq) (hr) (hs) (ht) (hu) (hv) (hw) (hx) (hy) (hz) (ia) (ib) (ic) (id) (ie) (if) (ig) (ih) (ii) (ij) (ik) (il) (im) (in) (io) (ip) (iq) (ir) (is) (it) (iu) (iv) (iw) (ix) (iy) (iz) (ja) (jb) (jc) (jd) (je) (jf) (jg) (jh) (ji) (jj) (jk) (jl) (jm) (jn) (jo) (jp) (jq) (jr) (js) (jt) (ju) (jv) (jw) (jx) (jy) (jz) (ka) (kb) (kc) (kd) (ke) (kf) (kg) (kh) (ki) (kj) (kk) (kl) (km) (kn) (ko) (kp) (kq) (kr) (ks) (kt) (ku) (kv) (kw) (kx) (ky) (kz) (la) (lb) (lc) (ld) (le) (lf) (lg) (lh) (li) (lj) (lk) (ll) (lm) (ln) (lo) (lp) (lq) (lr) (ls) (lt) (lu) (lv) (lw) (lx) (ly) (lz) (ma) (mb) (mc) (md) (me) (mf) (mg) (mh) (mi) (mj) (mk) (ml) (mm) (mn) (mo) (mp) (mq) (mr) (ms) (mt) (mu) (mv) (mw) (mx) (my) (mz) (na) (nb) (nc) (nd) (ne) (nf) (ng) (nh) (ni) (nj) (nk) (nl) (nm) (nn) (no) (np) (nq) (nr) (ns) (nt) (nu) (nv) (nw) (nx) (ny) (nz) (oa) (ob) (oc) (od) (oe) (of) (og) (oh) (oi) (oj) (ok) (ol) (om) (on) (oo) (op) (oq) (or) (os) (ot) (ou) (ov) (ow) (ox) (oy) (oz) (pa) (pb) (pc) (pd) (pe) (pf) (pg) (ph) (pi) (pj) (pk) (pl) (pm) (pn) (po) (pp) (pq) (pr) (ps) (pt) (pu) (pv) (pw) (px) (py) (pz) (qa) (qb) (qc) (qd) (qe) (qf) (qg) (qh) (qi) (qj) (qk) (ql) (qm) (qn) (qo) (qp) (qq) (qr) (qs) (qt) (qu) (qv) (qw) (qx) (qy) (qz) (ra) (rb) (rc) (rd) (re) (rf) (rg) (rh) (ri) (rj) (rk) (rl) (rm) (rn) (ro) (rp) (rq) (rr) (rs) (rt) (ru) (rv) (rw) (rx) (ry) (rz) (sa) (sb) (sc) (sd) (se) (sf) (sg) (sh) (si) (sj) (sk) (sl) (sm) (sn) (so) (sp) (sq) (sr) (ss) (st) (su) (sv) (sw) (sx) (sy) (sz) (ta) (tb) (tc) (td) (te) (tf) (tg) (th) (ti) (tj) (tk) (tl) (tm) (tn) (to) (tp) (tq) (tr) (ts) (tt) (tu) (tv) (tw) (tx) (ty) (tz) (ua) (ub) (uc) (ud) (ue) (uf) (ug) (uh) (ui) (uj) (uk) (ul) (um) (un) (uo) (up) (uq) (ur) (us) (ut) (uu) (uv) (uw) (ux) (uy) (uz) (va) (vb) (vc) (vd) (ve) (vf) (vg) (vh) (vi) (vj) (vk) (vl) (vm) (vn) (vo) (vp) (vq) (vr) (vs) (vt) (vu) (vv) (vw) (vx) (vy) (vz) (wa) (wb) (wc) (wd) (we) (wf) (wg) (wh) (wi) (wj) (wk) (wl) (wm) (wn) (wo) (wp) (wq) (wr) (ws) (wt) (wu) (wv) (ww) (wx) (wy) (wz) (xa) (xb) (xc) (xd) (xe) (xf) (xg) (xh) (xi) (xj) (xk) (xl) (xm) (xn) (xo) (xp) (xq) (xr) (xs) (xt) (xu) (xv) (xw) (xx) (xy) (xz) (ya) (yb) (yc) (yd) (ye) (yf) (yg) (yh) (yi) (yj) (yk) (yl) (ym) (yn) (yo) (yp) (yq) (yr) (ys) (yt) (yu) (yv) (yw) (yx) (yy) (yz) (za) (zb) (zc) (zd) (ze) (zf) (zg) (zh) (zi) (zj) (zk) (zl) (zm) (zn) (zo) (zp) (zq) (zr) (zs) (zt) (zu) (zv) (zw) (zx) (zy) (zz)

Die Bauleitung ist zu verstehen in Abhängigkeit - Bauleitung - Bauleitung.

Wegnahme durch: (Name) (Ort) (Datum) (Uhrzeit)

Die Bauleitung ist von dem Empfänger an die Bauleitung und die Bauleitung ist von dem Empfänger an die Bauleitung.

11. Februar - 1942, Bauleitung auf der Baustelle. (Name) (Ort) (Datum) (Uhrzeit)

Photo 9

Anweisung am 11. Februar 1942

Bestimmung
Karl Falck
Tulbau. Inst. Geschäft
Gielwitz O/S
Güter-Freytag Allee 13
Potsdam 1942

Tagelohnzettel № 4495

an: **Polizei**

| Reparatur / Neuverfertigung | Stunden
Arbeits | Stunden
Sonstige | Materialeinsatz: |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Monitor | 9 | 9 | Zu den Aufstellungsarbeiten zu
Aufstellungsarbeiten.
Materialien der Aufstellungsarbeiten
und Transportkosten
Dienstreise
31. 3. 43 |
| 2. Monitor | 9 | 18 | |
| 1. Monitor | 9 | 9 | |
| 1. Aufsteller | 9 | 9 | |
| 3. Arbeiter | 9 | 27 | |

Die Richtigkeit bescheinigt

Photo 10

Anweisung am 11. Februar 1942

Bestimmung
Ing. Robert Kuchler
Bauleitung - 1
Aufstellung
Ereignis nach 1. 1. 1942

Tagelohn-Zettel
- gültig nur für den Büro
- Aufstellung und Tagelohn der Bauleitung

am 5. 1. 1942 bis zum 10. 1. 1942

Rechnung geübt

| Art des (Bau) | Name | Stunden | | | | | | Rechnung | Gesamtwert
Materialien und sonstiger
Gehälter der Bauleitung |
|---------------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | 1. 1. | 2. 1. | 3. 1. | 4. 1. | 5. 1. | 6. 1. | | |
| 1. 1. | 1. 1. | 10 | 11 | | | | | 10 11 | |
| 2. 1. | 2. 1. | 12 | 12 | | | | | 12 12 | |
| 3. 1. | 3. 1. | 10 | 10 | | | | | 10 10 | |

84 30/54

RECHNUNG GEÜBT
ARCHIVUM

Die Richtigkeit bescheinigt

THE RUINS OF LEICHENKELLER I (GAS CHAMBER) OF KREMATORIUM II

Photo 8th Cross-section of Leichenkeller I of Krematorium II taken from Bandenring drawing 934, showing the arrangement of the upper ventilation and lower air extraction ducts, originally planned for a rampart

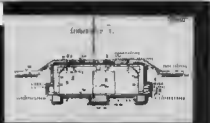


Photo A [Photos and assembly by the author]

View of the second central supporting pillar (the pillars are numbered 1 to 7, from south to north of Leichenkeller I of Krematorium II, looking south/north, and part of the east side of the ceiling. In the corner are the replacements of the third and fourth dummy shower heads. On the extreme right are the remains of the wooden beams sloped to the ceiling to which the wooden fresh air circulation ducts were fixed

Photo 9th [Photos and assembly by the author] Close-up view of the concrete ceiling appeared in 1943-44, bearing the grain marks of the wooden formwork

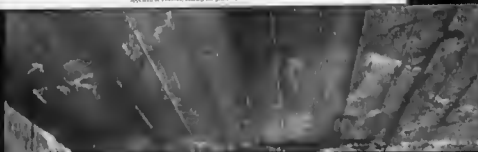


Photo 8th Detail of Leichenkeller I of Krematorium II taken from Bandenring drawing 932, showing the position of the photographs (see Photos A and B). The arrow indicates the entrance through which it is still possible to penetrate the ruins of the gas chamber. Numbered 1 to 12 is the eastern row of dummy showerheads. There is black in visible, there is white suppressed (though it is not always visible, but more is difficult). There were twelve others symmetrically placed in the western half. On this drawing, Leichenkeller I is not yet fixed but for its horizontal use the entrance door is still a double door opening upwards and the drains are still connected to the general drainage system of the building, which could have caused accidents after gassings, with hydrocyanic acid gas rising to the ground floor



THE RUINS OF LEICHENKELLER I (GAS CHAMBER)
OF KREMATORIUM II

Photo k' (Photo by the author, upper right)

Northwest/southwest view of part of the mass of Krematorium II. In the foreground is the furnace room, with Leichenkeller I behind it. The opening allowing access to the space below the part of the collapsed roof supported by the second pillar is at the far end, eastern side, where a house can be seen.

Photo B (Photo and assembly by the author)

North/south view of the concrete ceiling of Leichenkeller I of Krematorium II. On the right is the first central supporting pillar which pierced the ceiling when the room was blown up; and on the left, alongside the central supporting pillar, is the entrance to the second ductwork chamber. On the left the remains of one of the balconies to which the upper ventilator duct was fixed (one of the staples attaching it to the ceiling is visible).

Photo B' (Photo by the author, lower left)

North/south/southwest view of the south wall and collapsed roof of Leichenkeller I. In the center is the first supporting pillar, which supported the roof. On the right is a concrete slab with a metal handle, often taken for the cover of a Zyklon B introduction column, but which is in fact a service manhole cover. There are no bluish patches on the bricks of the south wall, the signs of prolonged use of hydrocyanic acid found at the death-chamber gas chambers, because the toxic gas was in contact with the walls only fleetingly in homicidal gasings, not for long periods as with death-cameras.

Photo k'' (Photo by the author, lower right)

North/south view of the western part of the ceiling of Leichenkeller I, with the south wall at the far end. Upper left, the hole in the ceiling is assumed to be one of the Zyklon B introduction openings, but the positions of the two holes that can be seen today do not correspond to those of the US Air Force photograph taken on 25th August 1944. The reason for this is yet unexplained; difference could well be simply that the roof tilted considerably when dynamited.



THE VENTILATION SYSTEMS OF KREMATORIIEN II AND III

Account of the research undertaken by the author in
order to explain the ventilation systems of
Krematorien II and III.

In this Chapter I shall not use the method adopted for the others, i.e. production of documents on a subject, then comments and conclusion. The problem, for there is a problem, of the ventilation systems of Krematorien II and III will be presented in the form of an account including what was known and thought in 1979, my doubts, my fairly lengthy researches, my findings and finally the discovery in 1982 in the BW 30/34 file of the «ARBEITSZEIT-BESCHNÜGUNGEN» (time sheets) of the Topf & Sons floor, Messing, who stayed at Auschwitz and installed all the ventilation systems of Krematorien II and III at Birkenau between 5th January and 9th June 1943. He was one of the rare «outside» civilians to be able to directly observe the consequences of the first gassing of 1500 Cracow Jews in Krematorium II on 14th March. In his notes, there are seven «slips» that reveal the «abnormal» use of the Leichenkeller (morgues, or literally «corpse cellars»), which enable two other isolated references to be explained. The documents relevant to this account will be produced as it proceeds.

For 40 years, the question of the ventilation in Krematorium of type II/III was thought to be obvious and well known. It was concerned with the fresh air supply and all extraction systems for the underground gas chambers. The Bauteilung drawings of the projected Krematorium II show that the rooms designated «Leichenkeller 1» or «L-Keller 1» were ventilated. Since the testimonies of former members of the Sonderkommando assert that Leichenkeller 1 of Krematorium II and III had been used as homicidal gas chambers and since two letters from SS sources indicated that one of the cellars designated «Vergasungskeller» had been fitted with a gas-tight door, the fact that this ventilation system appeared on the Bauteilung drawings became clear premeditation.

The extreme importance attached to this point is particularly evident in the book by Georges Wellers, «Les chambres à gaz ont existé», the cover of which [Document 1] is part of drawing 1174 [Document 4] which includes a cross-section of Leichenkeller 1 of the future Krematorium II, showing the upper and lower ventilation ducts. This is an indication of the value of this evidence in the eyes of Georges Wellers. His photo 8 [Document 2] reproduces the cover illustration with mention of the «ventilation ducts». His photo 9 [Document 3] shows cross-sections of Leichenkeller 1 and 2 (taken from drawing 934 [Document 5]) with the observation that L-Keller 1 is ventilated, unlike 2. Lastly, Wellers concludes (page 90), that:

«It can be seen that cellar 1 is not as long as cellar 2 and, above all (my underlining), that it is provided with a ventilation and air extraction system perfectly visible and named on the cross-section, while «corridor cellar 2» has no such installation (my underlining)».

This argument was put forward by the Auschwitz Museum and was used by the advocates appearing for the LICRA during the «Famison trial». They are blameless, since they are not

historians and were simply repeating as interpretation provided by the Museum and confirmed by Georges Wellers.

The truth is that this demonstration is quite erroneous, and hence any attempt to prove «premeditation» of the criminal use of Leichenkeller 1 as gas chambers on the basis of the ventilation systems is quite unfounded.

I worked for a long time on establishing THE PATHS TAKEN BY THE DIFFERENT VENTILATION DUCTS in Krematorien II and III. It took me about two years to arrive at a logical explanation on the basis of the scattered evidence then available as not, whereas if I had known about the existence of PMO file BW 30/34, simply the excerpt of an hour I took to read it would have saved me a great deal of groping in the dark. However, this file fully confirmed the findings of my work.

At the end of 1979, after consulting drawing 932 in the Museum Archives, a drawing representing the basement of a projected Krematorium which was to become Krematorium II, I expressed my doubts as to the technical feasibility of installing a gas chamber in Leichenkeller 1, because its entrance was fitted with a double door and the passage between Leichenkeller 2 (undressing room) and Leichenkeller 1 (gas chamber) was partly obstructed by a concrete corpse chute leading almost as far as the double door of Leichenkeller 1. The architect pointed out on drawings 933, 934 and 1174, where cross-sections of the two Leichenkeller appeared, that there was a MAJOR DIFFERENCE as regards ventilation: presence in L-Keller 1 and absence in 2 - a difference which according to him PROVED irrefutably that Leichenkeller 1 was a gas chamber and that it had been PLANNED as such. His demonstration appeared valid at the time and I believed it.

However, when I had completed my study of ALL THE DRAWINGS connected with the Birkenau Krematoriums, his categorical statement no longer fitted with my interpretation of some of them, and even less with several items as file BW 30/34 (microfilm 1060). A note of 3rd February 1943 from a certain Messing mentioned an air extractor fan («Abfuhrgebläse/and air blower») for Leichenkeller 2 [Document 6]. A letter of 11th February 1943 signed by Bischoff, head of the Bauteilung, spoke of a 7.5 HP motor for the extractor fan of Leichenkeller 2 [Document 7]. A letter from Topf & Sons of 12th February 1943 [Document 7a] used the same terms as Bischoff on the subject of an extractor fan for Leichenkeller 2.

On drawing 980 of the roof frame of the future Krematorium II [Document 8], the locations of TWO ventilation chimneys are shown. The one on the left, quite separate, is the fresh air intake for Leichenkeller 1. The other, to the right, through which the noxious air of this same Leichenkeller 1 is to be expelled, has FOUR outlets. While one outlet was for this function, the purpose

of the three others remained unexplained. However, the argument of the Museum archivists was still acceptable despite the documents of BW 30/34, for the mention of a motor for an extractor fan for Leichenkeller 2 was no proof that it was actually installed...

Five minutes of a television programme seen quite by chance led me to a meaning, accompanied by a former Monowitz prisoner, with Mr. David Olère, a professional artist and ex-member of the Sonderkommando who, in his canvases, evokes the universe of Birkenau. I took with me the drawings of the Krematorium so that I could question him about them, but he refused to look at them. He had his reasons for this. By their very precision, they disturbed his personal, residual vision of the infernal environment in which he had lived from 1943 to 1945. His reflex was more than understandable. On the other hand, he was willing to tell his own story. To support what he had to say, he produced his drawings and in particular those of his «Memento», produced in 1945-46, shortly after his return from deportation. The Memento was not able to show me very much however, being virtually emptied of its 60 to 70 original sketches. The greater part of them — 90 per cent — had been lent for an exhibition in Israel organised by Mrs. Myra Novitch, who never returned them to their author and owner.

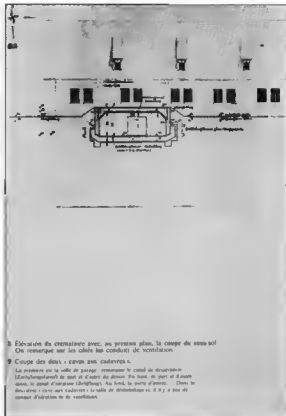
Despite my difficulty in believing certain episodes related by David Olère, a drawing of the fronts of the five three-muffle furnaces of Krematorium II or III intrigued me. On the right hand side of each furnace there was drawn a part representing a pulsed air installation, identical to that fitted on the third furnace of the Old Krematorium in the main camp. I had not yet any confirmation of this little-known detail of the equipment of the Krematorium II and III furnaces, but I later found mention of it in the book by Dr. Niyizki, «Auschwitz: a doctor's eyewitness accounts» [Chapter VII, page 45], thus being reinforced by the method of operating a three-muffle furnace with its pulsed air blower being reproduced at the end of the book. In Volume 11 of the Hoess trial there is an identical document, but supplied for the new (third) two-muffle furnace of the old Krematorium. David Olère, while lamenting the «loss» of his drawings produced a journal of the LICRA (former name of the LICRA) where three of his works were reproduced: a plan of Krematorium III, a group of prisoners returning to the camp, and a view of one of the undressing rooms in Krematorium II or III (in fact Leichenkeller 2 of Krematorium III). Along the top left of the room there was a big black tube from which two smaller tubes with grids over their ends protruded downwards [Document 13]. The discovery of these unknown details, that other sources had led me to suspect, proved to me first of all that I was not dealing with a story teller, even though some of his declarations were at the limit of the credible, and secondly that on the evidence of the photos that I knew, his drawings were authentic as this early date and were very faithful in their detail and, finally, that an extraction system in detail pointed out by David Olère had existed in Leichenkeller 2 of both Krematorien II and III.

Georges Wellers
**Les chambres à gaz
 ont existé**
Des documents, des témoignages, des chiffres
 Collection Témoins/Gallimard



Document 1.

Cover of the book by Georges Wellers - *Les chambres à gaz ont existé*, NRF Gallimard, Paris 1981. Fragment of building drawing 1174 showing the air intake and exhaust ducts of Leichenbeller 1 of the future Kermatorium II.



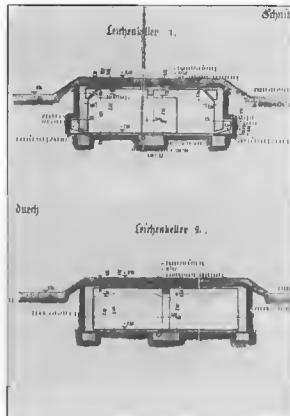
Document 2.

[Page 8 of Wellers' book] Fragment of drawing 1174, the south elevation of the future Kermatorium II, with a cross section of Leichenbeller 1.

Translation of notes

3. Elevation of the Kermatorium with in the foreground the cross-section of the cellar. The ventilation ducts can be seen on the sides.
9. Cross-section of the two «corps» celliers.

The first is the gas chamber: note the air extraction duct (Entlüftungskanal) on each side of the drawing. Above, also each side, the ventilation duct (Belüftung). At the end is the entrance door. In the second «corps» cellier («undressing room») there is no ventilation or air extraction duct.



Document 3.

[Page 9 of Wellers' book] Fragment of Building drawing 934 of a Kermatorium project, the latest Kermatorium II, showing cross sections of Leichenbeller 1 (above) and Leichenbeller 2 (below).

Document 3. 10. 11. 1942 (11. 1. 1942) 1942
Neg. n° 17612 et 200189
Entwurf für das Krematorium Projekt pour le crématoire.
1174 (longitudinal) durch den unterirdischen Teil.
Coupe longitudinale de la partie souterraine sur cave.
1173. (Sauf) Schnitt durch Leichenkeller I mit Be- und Entlüftungsräumen.
[facade] sauf) Coupe de la cave I cadavres I avec canaux d'aération
et de désaérialisation.

• Ar. II

Entwurf für das
Krematorium -

Longitudinal-Ansicht des unterirdischen Teils

DC 1174

Plan der Erde

1173.1174

Document 4.

[PMO neg. nos 17612 und 200189]

[BW 3006] Drawings 1173 and 1174 of 15th January 1942
Entwurf für das Krematorium/project crematorium.

1173 Längsschnitt durch den unterirdischen Teil/longitudinal section
of the basement part.

1174 [Sauf] Schnitt durch Leichenkeller I mit Be- und Entlüftungsräumen [sauf] section of Leichenkeller I with
ventilation and air extraction ducts.

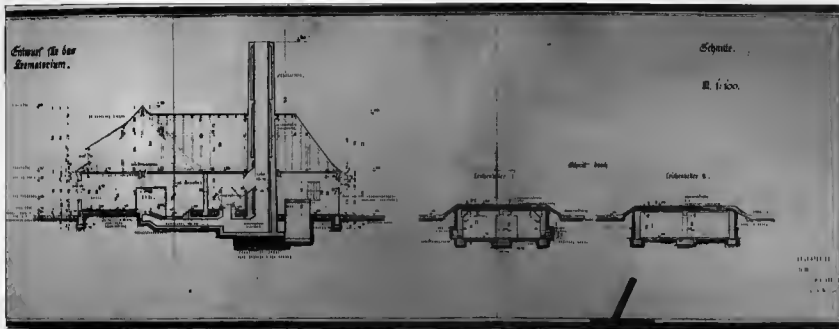
Translation of inscriptions. (left to right)

Drawing 1173:

- Erdschüttung/earth bank
- Vorlage/hard fill
- Gewachsener Boden/natural earth.
- Abteigrube/drain.
- Ruhscheibe/corpses chute.
- Belüftung/ventilation.
- Unterzug/cross-beam
- Eisenbeton - Bohlendecke/reinforced concrete roof beams.
- Aufzug/corpses lift.
- Entlüftung/air extraction
- Entlüftungskanal/air extraction duct.
- Verbrennungsraum/incineration room [furnace room].
- Betonboden mit Glattschicht/concrete floor with smooth screed.
- Vorlage 15cm HÖH 175/18cm hard fill.

Drawing 1174

- Anschüttung/earth bank.
- Belüftungskanal vom Dachgeschoss/ventilation duct from roof space.
- Entlüftungskanal - Verbindung [unter ? N.G. Fassboden]/air extraction duct
junction [under new floor level].
- Belüftungskanal - Verbindung/ventilation duct junction
- Entlüftungskanal zum Dachgeschoss/extraction duct to roof space
- Neue Geländehöhe/new ground level
- Gewachsener Boden/natural earth.
- KREMATORIUM Zutritt verboten/CREMATORIUM - keep out



Document 5

(FMO reg. nos 6238, 17909 and 20818/6)

Drawing 934, scale 1:100
Drawn on 27th January 1942 by SS Sergeant Ulmer
checked by SS Second Lieutenant Dejens
and approved by SS Captain Witschelt on
28th January 1942.

Entwurf für das Konzentrationslagermauerwerk

Schnitt durch Leichenkeller 1, Leichenkeller 2/
cross section of corpse cellars 1 and 2.

Translation of inscriptions (left to right)

Chimney and furnace room section:

- Firsthöhe/ridge height
- Traufhöhe/gutter height
- Fensterbank/window lintel height
- Fensterbank/window sill height
- Sockelhöhe/base height
- Sockel-Oberrschl. Sandstein/base facing sandstone
- Gewächsener Boden/natural earth
- Dachdeckung/Ziegeldach roof covering
- Eisenbeton-Hohlkörperdecke/ceiling of reinforced concrete and hollow blocks
- Betonboden m. Glasur/concrete floor with smooth screed
- Vorlage 18cm HGR [7]/11cm hard fill
- Lehmschlag/clay base
- Erdschüttung/earth bank
- Entlüftungskanal/air extraction duct
- Ofen/furnace
- Pfeilerfundamente/pillar base
- Rauchkanal 0.70 x 0.60/mokey flue
- Türhöhe/door heights

- Sangzananlage/vertical type forced-draught installation
- Sehnsteinfundamente [Nisch floden Betts] [nn] [probe] [chimney] foundation [after rising and strength]
- Rauchkanal-Sehebel/flue damper
- 3 Züge 0.80 x 1.20/flies
- Sehnstein/chimney
- Sehnstein-Verwahrung/chimney flashing
- Müllerverbrennungsofen/waste incinerator
- Betonboden m. Glasur/concrete floor with smooth screed
- Vorlage 20cm HGR [1]/20cm hard fill
- Türen und Fensterumrahmungen - Oberschl. Sandstein/facing of door and window frames sandstone
- Gewächsener Boden/natural earth

Leichenkeller 1

- Entlüftungskanal/air evacuation duct
- Senkrechte Isolierung/vertical damp-proofing

- Isolierung/damp-proofing
- Belüftung/ventilation
- Erdschüttung/earth bank
- Kies/gravel
- Wassertichte Abdeckung/water-tight covering
- Betonboden mit Glattnach 14cm Stk/concrete floor with smooth screed 14cm
- Pfeilerfundamente 150 x 150 x 0.60 Tief/pillar base 150 x 150 x 0.60 deep
- Erdschüttung/earth bank
- Gewächsener Boden/natural earth

Leichenkeller 2

(inscriptions translated above not repeated).

- Abwasserkanal/sewer
- Senkrechte Isolierung/vertical damp-proofing
- Erdschüttung/earth bank
- Kies/gravel
- Wassertichte Abdeckung/water-tight covering
- Betonboden mit Glattnach 14cm Stk/concrete floor with smooth screed 14cm
- Erdschüttung/earth bank

About the same time, the Museum had sent me four photos [Documents 9, 10, 11, 12] of «ventilation ducts», with no other identification, that had been found at the time of the Liberation in the Auschwitz «Bathhouse» (place where new and recuperated construction materials were kept). There was no need to be particularly clairvoyant to recognise the components of the air extraction system of Leichenkeller 2 of Krematorium II and III, dismantled in December 1944 by an «Abbruchkommando» (demolition squad) and so well drawn from memory by Olère in 1946. The truth is, that I had already seen these four photos in the museum before my visit to the artist. This dating could be attributed to a ventilation system in the Krematorien and in view of their length I was inclined to think that they had come from the undressing rooms (50m long), but at the time this was mere speculation. However, David Olère told me their function and his drawings proved their existence. It remained to find a concrete trace...

During a stay at Auschwitz, as I was tirelessly walking around the ruins of the Krematorien, as is my habit, for with each visit I learn something new in the light of the new documents I have been able to familiarise myself with, my foot suddenly went into a hole hidden by weeds in the ruins of Krematorium II. The tidying and weeding of the ruins of Birkenau is in fact a very sporadic business. Sometimes they are well cleared, and then a few months later covered with weeds. This hole [Document 14 to 18] was circular, about 25cm in diameter and was at the junction between Leichenkeller 1 and 2, above the space shown on the drawings of the basement as «Vorraum». The air duct drawn by David Olère and those of the «Banhof» were of substantially the same section. Unlike in Olère's drawing, in which a certain «artistic licence» must be allowed for, the duct could only have joined the others in the «Vorraum». This hole which had made me fall in the ruins established this fact and I was more than satisfied despite the fall. However, I am unable to say whether this opening is in the ceiling of the Vorraum or that of the Waschraum of the ground floor, because it is difficult to identify the origin of the ruins. Thus far, I have found no similar evidence for Krematorium III.

In the light of the drawing by David Olère of the undressing room of Krematorium III, the circular opening discovered in the ruins of Krematorium II and the panel mentions found in the correspondence between the Banierung and Messing Topf, it is no longer possible to uphold the argument that the Leichenkeller 1 of Krematorium II and III were specifically planned for criminal purposes because they had ventilation systems (unlike the Leichenkeller 2 which did not have ventilation) as shown on drawings 933, 934 and 1174. Since Leichenkeller 1 and 2 both had air extraction systems, neither could have been used for gassing, and I consider that this possibility was ENVISAGED by the SS at the beginning (first quarter of 1943), then abandoned, the overall gas chamber capacity of the Birkenau Krematorien being already more than adequate.

Of the three formerly unexplained outlets of the main ventilation chimney, two still remained to be defined. In the ruins of Krematorium III [Documents 19 to 22], dynamited by the SS, the floor of the roof space has collapsed on what was the furnace room. It is possible to see five equidistant rectangular openings above the emplacements of the five furnaces, one opening per furnace.

Drawing 934 [Document 8], in its north-south section of Krematorium II, appearing on the left, indicates that an «Entlüftungskanal» (air extraction duct) ran east-west along the floor of the roof space, removing the hot air generated by the working furnaces.

A drawing by David Olère of the furnace room of Krematorium III [see Part II, Chapter 5, Document 87] also shows air intakes in the ceiling above the furnaces, but with three openings per furnace. One may perhaps attribute the number of air intakes to artistic imagination, but as regards the rest of the composition, a Banierung photograph of the Krematorium II furnace room [Document 23], taken in February or March 1943, confirms the precision of David Olère's «sovereign» and the presence of one opening per furnace. Without this air extraction system, the atmosphere of the furnace room would have rapidly become unbearable. A duct led to the main ventilation chimney to evacuate this hot air.

Document 8:

Dossier du P.W.O. B.W. 30/34, n° microfilm 1060, page 97:

Bw 30

Friechluftgebläse Nr. 450 für L. Keller I.

mit Saug und Druckstutzen Drosselklapps

Abluftgebläse Nr. 550 für L. Keller II.

mit Saug- Druckstutzen und Drosselklappe

Abluftgebläse Nr. 550 für Ofenraum

mit Druckstutzen

Saug und Druckstutzen für Gebläse 375

für Sz. Wasch u. Aufb. Raum

Holz-drosselklappe für L. Keller I.

Messing

/ In Bleischrift geschrieben/: Schulze

Den 3.2.43 telegr. bestellt, Kirschneck.

[PMO File BW 30-34 microfilm No. 1070, page 97]

A handwritten note from the firm Messing of Topf & Sons mentioning [this underlined] «air extractor blower No. 550 for Leichenkeller II [undressing room]».

BW 30

Fresh air blower No. 450 for Cellar 1 with suction and pressure connections [and] regulating valve.

Air extraction blower No. 550 for Cellar 2 with suction and pressure connections and regulating valve.

Air extraction blower No. 550 for furnace room, with pressure connections.

Suction and pressure connections 375 fan for dissecting, washing and laying out room

Wooden regulating valve for Cellar 1.

Messing

/Written in pencil/: Schulze

Ordered by telegram on 3.2.43 [initialed] Kirschneck.

COPI

11th February 1943

22957/43JH/Pa

Subject: Krematorium III - POW - Auschwitz - Upper Silesia
 Re: Telegram from the Auschwitz Central Construction Management
 of 10/24/43 10:05 hours.

Enclosure:--

Messing
 J.A. Topf & Sons
 Engineering Works

Ref:11
 Dreystraße 79

The above-mentioned telegram once more confirms the order already issued for the complete mechanical installations, including 2 permanent corpse lifts and 1 provisional corpse hoist to be delivered rapidly, as well as a practical installation for delivering coal and removing ash. You are thus to supply and fit the complete K.III installation. We now trust that everything will be done to ensure that the mechanical components are manufactured immediately and dispatched to the site.

It is essential that the complete installation come into service by 10th April 1943.

The Central Construction Management aspects that in meeting this deadline you will make up for your non-acceptance of contract in not keeping promises and issuing numerous documents but corresponding to the facts on the subject of the delivery of the turbines for Krematorium III of the POW camp. Thus you write on 21st January 1943 that all the materials for the ventilation and air suction installations would be sent on 22nd January 1943. When the wagon arrived, these components were missing, so that your first Messing was unable to continue. On the telephone, Mr. Proter told us that all the material had been sent. After many further enquiries, another of your people told us that the remaining material had not yet been completed. Finally, the completed materials was supposed to have been put into stock. Now, a consignment note arrived with a consignment date of 6th February 1943. After examination of this and a conversation with your fitter, it appears that a No. 350 blower with a 3.5 HP motor is still missing, and it is precisely this blower desired for the C-cellar for which you need in the most urgent. Also, a 7.5 HP motor for the No. 350 air suction blower for C-cellar 2.

We therefore telegraphed you once more - dispatch immediately blower 450 and 3.5 HP motor for C-cellar 1 and 7.5 HP motor for an suction blower No. 350 for C-cellar II, not awaiting an dispatch note of 6.2.1943, otherwise the installation cannot be brought into service. Reply by telegraph.

This negligence on your part is causing the Central Construction Management the greatest difficulties. We would ask you therefore to immediately dispatch the missing material by express in order that the installation may at last be completed.

Head of the of the Auschwitz Waffen-SS and
 Polish Central Construction Management
 [signed] Buschoff
 SS-Captain

Distribution

- 1 Civilian Specialist Meeting
- 1 SS-Second Lieutenant Jannich
- 1 SS-Second Lieutenant Kirchschick
- 1 Records (file BW 30 Krematorium)

F.d.R.d.A. [For file]
 Signatures
 SS-Second Lieutenant (S [specialist])

(Handwritten): F.d.R.d.A.
 Pollok SS-Second Lieutenant

11. Februar 1943

22957/43JH/Pa.

Re: Telegramm III - K.G.L. - Auschwitz - O/S.
 Betreff: Telegramm der Zentralbauverwaltung Auschwitz
 vom 10.2.1943 - 20.05 Uhr.

Firma
 J. A. Topf & Söhne
 Maschinenfabrik

Dreystraße 79

Mit o.g. Telegramm wurde der bereits getätigte Auftrag der gesamten Maschinenlieferungen einbezogen. 2 Stb. endgültigen elektrischen Zeichnungen und 1 provisorisches, kurzfristig lieferbares Zeichnung, sowie einer praktischen Zeichnungsschulung und Asbesttransportvorrichtung ebenfalls bestellend. Sie haben ferner die Anlage 2 III kompl. zu liefern und zu installieren. Es wird erzwungen, dass mancher alles daran gesetzt wird, damit die gesamten Maschinenlieferung sofort fertiggestellt werden und zum Transport kommen. Die Inbetriebnahme der Gesamtanlage wird bestimmt am 10. April 1943 erfolgen.

Die Zentralbauverwaltung erwartet, dass Sie mit der Einhaltung des Termins bei dieser Anlage die Schichten wieder aussetzen, welche durch Nichterfüllen von Vergebungen und mehrmalige Behelungen die nicht den Tatsachen entsprechen, bei den Lieferungen der Ofen für Krem. II B.S.L. entgegenstehen. Sie schreiben Sie am 21.1.1943, dass alle gesamten Materialien für die No- und Ventilationsanlage am 22.1.43 zum Versand kommen. Beim Eintreffen des Wagens fehlten diese Teile, sodass Ihr Monteur Messing nicht weiter konnte. Am Telefon sagte Herr Herr Prüfer, dass sämtliche Materialien abgegangen seien. Bei nochmaliger Telefonierung wurde

von einem anderen Herrn mitgeteilt, dass die richtigen Materialien noch nicht fertig seien. Zum Schluss waren dann die fertiggestellten Materialien angeblich im Lager gestapelt worden. Jetzt geht ein Frachtbefehl ein mit Versandanzeige vom 6.2.1943. Nach Prüfung desselben und Rücksprache mit Ihrem Monteur wird festgestellt, dass ein Gehäuse Nr. 450 mit 3.5 PS-Motor wieder fehlt und ausgerechnet das Gehäuse für B-Keller Leuchten an der nächsten bestellend wird. Außerdem 1 Motor 7.5 PS für das Abluftgehäuse Nr. 350 für L-Keller II. Es wurde Ihnen diesbezüglich wieder telegraphisch/abgemeldet befohlen, auf Versandanzeige 6.2.43 nicht angegebene Gehäuse 450 mit 3.5 PS-Motor für L-Keller I und Motor 7.5 PS für Abluftgehäuse Nr. 350 für L-Keller II, da andernfalls Anlage nicht in Betrieb genommen werden kann. Praktisch ist, dass diese Versandleistungen Ihre Seite entstehen der Zentralbauverwaltung die größten Schwierigkeiten. Sie werden deshalb ersucht, sofort die fehlenden Materialien per Kilogramm zum Versand zu bringen, damit endlich die Anlage fertiggestellt wird.

Der Leiter der Zentralbauverwaltung
 des Waffen-SS und Polizei Auschwitz
 J. A. Topf & Söhne
 J. A. Topf & Söhne

Verteiler:
 1 Sachbearbeiter Jannich
 1 Sachbearbeiter Kirchschick
 1 Sachbearbeiter Kirchschick
 1 Registratur (Alt, BW, J. A. Topf & Söhne)

F.d.R.d.A.
 Unterschrift
 des Sachbearbeiters (S)

F.d.R.d.A.

Buschoff
 11.2.1943

Document 7: Verso de la page 37 du h.W. 30
 34, lettre du 11.02.43 signée
 par Buschoff et adressée à :
 Topf indiquant (passage souligné)
 que en rouge) la suite. III
 nouveau 1 moteur de 7.5CV pour
 la soufflerie d'aspiration
 d'air n° 350 destinée à la
 salle C II (la ventilation).

Document 7

Verso of page 37 of BW 30/34, letter of 11th February 1943 signed by Buschoff and addressed to blower Topf, indicating (passage underlined in red) + in addition a 7.5 HP motor for air suction blower No. 350 for Leuchten II (it also missing).

Abtschrift.

J.A. Topf & Söhne.

Cart, den 12.2.43.
Jag. Nr. 14.2.43.

an die
Zentral-Verwaltung
der offen- und belagerten

Abschreibung

Betr.: Krematorium II und III RGL.

hes.

Unsere Bestellung: J IV.
Prf.

Dem Empfang Ihres Telegramm vom 10.2.43. lautet:

*Für Krematorium III RGL Small Dreifußöfen wird der bereits getätigte Auftrag der gesamten Maschineneinrichtung einschließlich 2 Stück ausfälligen elektrischen Leuchten aufzugeben und diese provisorisch kurzfristig lieferbar sein. Leuchten frug sowie einer praktischen Leuchtenbeschriftung und Aschetransportverrichtung nochmals bestätigt. Sie haben daher die Anlage K III komplett zu liefern und zu erstellen. Es wird daher erwartet, dass innerhalb eines Monatszeitraums wird, dass die Lieferung der gesamten Maschineneinrichtung sofort fertiggestellt und zum Versand gebracht wird. Die Maschineneinrichtung der Gesamtanlage muss bestimmt 10 4 45 erfolgen Brieffolge bestätigt wir hiermit. Hierzu möchten wir bemerken, dass die Lieferung der 5 Dreifußöfen, wie schon mit unserem Herrn Oberingenieur Prüfer abgesprochen, bestimmt am 20. März erfolgt. Die Fertigstellung des Auftrages über die 2 elektrischen Leuchtenaufgabe sowie über den Lager-Auftrag folgt noch.

Für die Leuchtenbeschriftung und Aschetransport-Verrichtung bringt Ihnen unser Herr Prüfer, der am Montag, den 15. d. M. nachmittags dort eintrifft, geeignete Vorschläge, sowie Kostenanschlag mit.

Ihre Nachricht vom 11. d. M. lautet:

*Absendet sofort auf Versandzeichen 6 2 4 nicht angegebene Gehäuse 450 mit 1,5 PS Motor für 2 Koller I und Motor 7,5 PS für Ablichtungsblase Fr. 550 für 1 Koller II, da andernfalls Anlage nicht in Betrieb genommen werden kann.

bestätigen wir hiermit ebenfalls und teilen Ihnen dazu mit:

Gehäuse Nr. 450 ist am 8.11.42 zum V. reud gelommen und das Gehäuse Nr. 450 (Holzgehäuse) am 29.1.43. Zu letzterem Gehäuse fehlte noch der 7,5-PS-Motor, den wir schon vorabentschiedlich telefonisch und telegraphisch bei unserem Lieferanten angeordnet haben. Daher haben wir uns entschlossen, vorerst einen 10-PS-Motor mit der gleichen Drehzahl für Hilgel nach dort zum Versand zu bringen. Dieser Motor könnte dann später noch ausgetauscht werden. Diese Maßnahme haben wir getroffen, damit die Inbetriebnahme der Anlage durch das Fehlen des Motors nicht infragegestellt wird.

Heil Hitler!
J.A. Topf & Söhne
p.m. vom 2 Unterschriften.

Anmerkung auf d. Originalbrief:

F. Nach Angabe des originalen in: da Seblie nicht mit-samt's sondern Seblie Nr. 375. vom 14.2.43.
Verteiler: 1 - auf Sachsch.
1 - auf Sachsch. 2 J. Berlin.
1 - auf Sachsch.
1 - A. Berlin.

COPY

J.A. Topf & Söhne

Erfurt, 12.2.43
Received 14.2.43

To the
Waffen-SS and Police
Central Construction Management
Anschluß

Subject: Krematorium II and III POW camp

Our section D IV
Prüfer

We acknowledge receipt of your telegram of 10th instant, reading

*Für Krematorium III of the POW camp with 5 three-muffle furnaces, the order already confirmed for the complete mechanical installation, including 2 permanent corpse lifts and one provisional corpse hoist to be delivered rapidly, as well as a practical installation for delivering coal and removing ash is again confirmed. You are thus to supply and fit the complete K III installation. We now trust that everything will be done to ensure that the mechanical components are manufactured immediately and dispatched to the site. It is essential that the complete installation come into service by 10th April 1943. Letter follows.

In this regard we would point out that the delivery of the 5 three-muffle furnaces, as agreed with our chief engineer Mr Prüfer, will be made without fail on 20th March. Confirmation of the contract concerning the 2 electric corpse lifts and the Damag goods hoist will follow.

As regards the coal delivery and ash removal installation, Mr Prüfer, who will arrive there in the afternoon of Monday, 15th of this month, will bring you suitable proposals and a quotation.

We also confirm receipt of your cable of 11th instant, reading

*Send immediately 450 blower with 3.5 HP motor for C-cellar I and 7.5 HP motor for air extractor blower 550 for C-cellar II not appearing on commitment date of 6.2.43, otherwise the installation cannot be put into service.

and would state on this subject

The No 450 blower was dispatched on 8.11.42 and the No. 450 (error, it should be 550) (wooden blower) on 29.1.43. For this latter blower the 7.5 HP motor was still lacking and we have requested this in different ways - by telephone and telegraph - from our supplier. We have therefore taken the decision while awaiting delivery to send to you by express a 10 HP motor with the same speed of rotation. This motor can then be changed subsequently. We have taken this decision in order that the bringing into service of the installation should not be compromised by the lack of a motor.

Heil Hitler!
J.A. Topf & Söhne
two signatures

[handwritten] Verified Jansch
According to the original letter

According to the final Meeting, this was not sent, but a blower No. 375 Signed Jähring 14.2.43
Distributions: 1 SS-Second Lieutenant Jansch
1 SS-Second Lieutenant Kirschneck
1 Civilian employee Jähring

Document 1
[PANO reg. no. 2002-1]

Drawing 980, scale 1:100

Drawn by SS Sergeant Ulmer

checked by SS Second Lieutenant Dejace

on 3rd February 1942

and approved by SS Captain Bischoff on

7th February

Entwurf des Krematoriums/

crematorium project.

Werkstattentwurf.

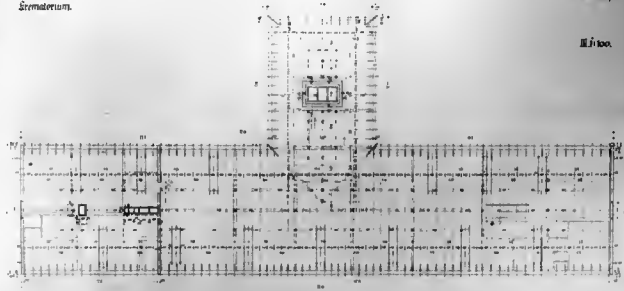
Entwurf für das
Krematorium.

Werkstatt.

Werkstatt.

Translation of inscriptions

- Kammerwahrung /
shimmy flaring (in solid)
below the solid
shimmy for the side
furnaces)
- Sämtliche eingetragene
Masse sind Rohbaumasse
und sind vor Baubeginn zu
überprüfen.
Liniendimensionen sind
sicher zu melden (All the
dimensions given are raw
figures and are to be
checked before work begins.
Any discrepancies are to
be reported immediately)



The figure lower right,
7015/V, proves that this drawing
was communicated to the Hata
firm of Katowitz, a civilian
undertaker, who marked it with
their own reference number, thus
proving that the drawing was not
«secret».

Entwurf des Krematoriums/

Entwurf des Krematoriums/

Entwurf des Krematoriums/

Entwurf des Krematoriums/

Entwurf des Krematoriums/

Entwurf des Krematoriums/

Entwurf des Krematoriums/

Entwurf des Krematoriums/

Entwurf des Krematoriums/

Entwurf des Krematoriums/

Entwurf des Krematoriums/



Document 8



Document 10



Document 11



Document 12

Remarks on documents 8, 10, 11 and 12
[PMO reg. no. 551 to 556]

In «AMSDST A NIGHTMARE OF CRIME» (Notes of prisoners of Sonderkommando found at Auschwitz), special issue of the Auschwitz Notebooks, PMO 1973, the unknown author relates on pages 120 and 122 .

«Today, November 28 [1944] Himmler is thought to have ordered the dismantling of the remaining Krematorium on the 26th; the demolition of crematorium II was begun, the next to be demolished will be crematorium III. It is interesting that first off all the ventilating motor [den gegen verfahrenstischen Motor-the air extraction motor] and pipes [die Röhre] were dismantled and sent to [other] camps. Some in Mauthausen, others to Gross-Rosen. Since they serve to gas people on a larger scale, as there were no mechanical appliances of that kind at all in crematorium IV and V, suspicion is aroused that on the terrain of those camps identical points for the extermination of Jews will be established .

Actually, the reasons for this dismantling appear to be other than those invoked by the unknown author: a desire to remove all traces of the massacres and the urgent need to recover metals in view of the catastrophic military situation. What is more, the description of the ventilation system given by this witness can apply only to the undressing rooms.

Henry Tauber says that the dismantling commenced in autumn [end November] 1944 and that the dismantled components were taken to the station and shipped off and that some of the material was abandoned on the Auschwitz I «Banhof» and found intact in 1945. He recognised «parts of the ventilation system» These were from of the undressing rooms, since those of the gas chambers in Krematorium II and III were of a different design.

These two witnesses indicate that the SS had the ventilation systems of Leichenkeller 2 of Krematorium II and III dismantled at the end of November 1944. This proves that the systems had indeed been installed.

Only the smallest ventilation outlet still remained to be explained. Fortunately, the Bauleitung spelled out its requirements precisely. A letter of 22nd October 1941 [Document 34] referring to a conversation between Bischoff and Prüfer (Topf's chief engineer) on the plan to build ONE new Krematorium at the Stammlager and not at Birkenau - which was to become the prototype for the future Krematorien II and III, speaks of the «installation of an extraction system in the TW/O corpse cellars, the dissecting room and the furnace room». The last air outlet was therefore to ventilate the dissecting room. In fact, according to Messing [Document 8 and his interview, Document 23], this ventilation served both the dissecting room AND the washing and laying out room, which was in practice systematically used as an additional morgue and place for «knocking people over» with small calibre pistols.

Thus all the ventilation systems of Krematorien II and III were now clearly defined. It remained only to locate the blower motors and verify that my assumptions were correct.

Two years of disjointed and difficult research can be summed up in the simple schematic diagram of Document 25. It is probably definitive. During the compilation of the French version of the «Album d'Auschwitz», published by Editions du Seuil in November 1983, I was responsible among other things for the annexes on Krematorien II, III, IV and V. On the explanatory photograph of Krematorium III [Document 24] that I proposed there, the ventilation outlets for the gas chamber and the furnace room are inverted with respect to Document 25. I had located them like that on the basis of the proximity of the chimneys and the evacuation ducts. The hot air duct from the furnace room was attached to the closest outlet. For the diagram in document 25, I took account of the sections of the outlets and the associated ducts in relation to the volume of the rooms to be ventilated, a principle I shall also use for the allocating the extraction fan motors of different sizes. The ranking of the volumes of the rooms concerned, from the biggest to the smallest, is as follows: furnace room, undressing room, gas chamber, dissecting, washing and laying out rooms. The outlets are all 30cm wide, but are of different lengths: 84, 80, 70, and 30 cm, and this classification shows which outlet corresponds to which room. The Leichenkeller 1/gas chamber evacuation ducts are of a uniform 50 x 50 section in the underground parts and those external to the building, but change to 70 x 50 at the junction of the two lower evacuation ducts and keep that same section all the way through the Krematorium to the 70 x 50 outlet. This additional evidence reinforces the layout shown in Document 25.

Towards the end of October 1983, at the end of what I thought was to be my last study visit to the Auschwitz Museum archives, having finished my research on virtually all the known documents concerning the Krematorien, I asked the archivist Tadewicz Wawrzko, who had become a friend in the course of my different stays, to let me «really» visit his archives. Documents are normally corralled in a room next to his office and he brings them on request and takes them away once they have been studied. I wanted to see the place where they were stored. Having agreed to my request, he explained that on the first floor of Block 24 where the Archives Service was revealed, there had been the camp broom in the time of the concentration camp. Favored prisoners, pre-eminent people, Capos and Vorarbeiter of all sorts had access through tickets or various gifts that they «organised». For a few minutes they were allowed their slice of seventh heaven with women prisoner partners, forced to exercise this «profession». The meetings took place in six small rooms whose doors had peepholes enabling the SS responsible for the smooth operation of this «house», to watch what was going on.



Document 13
[PAHO microfilm 20544]

Sketch by David Olitz dated 1946, which appeared in «Le Droit de Vivre» [The Right to Live], the IACA Journal, of 15th February 1964. 31st year, No. 318, page 3. «Undressing room of Krematorium III» (west east view).

Above left is the air extraction duct of Leichenkeller 2. The air intakes should be more numerous than shown on this drawing. The duct did not go up through the ceiling on the extreme left as shown, but extended in the west entrance of the room. At the far end it terminated in the «Varrans» (ventilator) and then rose vertically to join the other air extraction ducts and go in the main air evacuation chimney. In Leichenkeller 2 of Krematorium II it was upper right.

The clothes hooks and the benches from along the walls and round the central pillars were found in the Dachau in 1945 and were drawn by David Olitz.

Document 14



Document 15



Position du photographe
pour les documents 14 et 15.

Document 15a

Inspection on the plan of Kermasseron II (15a)

Position of the photographer
for documents 14 and 15

Document 16



Document 14

[Photo by the author]

View of Lachenkellet 2 of Kermasseron II looking east-west and taken from above the «Verrants». At the far end is the access stairway (labelled «escalier d'accès»). In the foreground an upright marker brick placed by the author

Document 15

[Photo by the author]

To (right and) to the left of the brick is a hole whose position with respect to Lachenkellet 2 can be seen

Document 16

[Photo by the author]

Oblique view of the circular opening

Document 17

[Photo by the author]

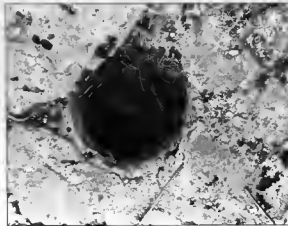
Close-up view of the opening in the ceiling, with the brick removed

Document 18

[Photo by the author]

View from above of the circular opening through which passed the an extrusive mass of the Lachenkellet 2 (darker ring marks of Kermasseron II). Its diameter is about 25cm.

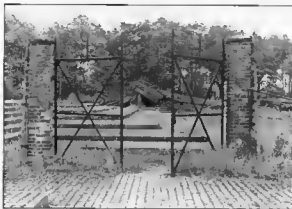
Document 17



Document 18

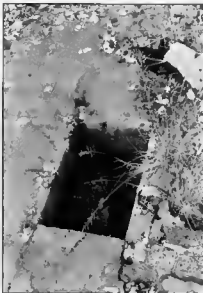
Document 19
[Photo by the author]

Steel and iron mesh entrance gate to Krematorium III. In the background, in front of the trees, are the ruins of the building. On the right are the remains of the collapsed roof of the furnace room. The steps on the left are not original and belong to the monument erected to the memory of the victims of Birkenau.



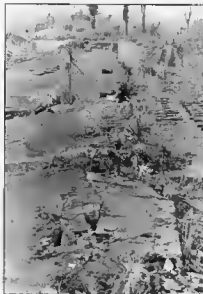
Document 21
[Photo by the author]

The hot air evacuation opening above furnace 2 of Krematorium III.



Document 28
[Photo by the author]

East west view of the collapsed roof. The five rectangular openings served to evacuate the heat generated by the five three-waffle furnaces, one opening per furnace.



Document 22
[Photo by the author]

The hot air evacuation opening above furnace 1 of Krematorium III.



In these cells, the women have now been replaced by shelves loaded with files. The visit began - I was so carefully explained the content of each one. There were many files, but in a view of the acuity of the camp and its great size. It was obvious that there remains only a small part of what must have been an enormous amount of paper.

We examined five cells whose subjects were not connected with my work, except that in one there was a file on the consumption of wood and coke by the Krematorium. The sixth cell was that of the «Banleitungs» and here I found the drawings over which I had so often. I had discovered the system under which the documents and drawings concerned with the Krematorium were classified. Each document or set of documents is catalogued under the initial designation BW 30/31 (i.e. «worksheets 30» the Banleitungs designation of the Krematorium) followed by a catalogue number. BW 30/1 to BW 30/34 contain the drawings of the Krematorium. BW 30/25 to 30/31 and 30/34 contain correspondence, orders and various other papers that have been found concerned with the construction of these buildings. I checked, for the principle of the thing, to make sure that I knew the main files, going through them to identify them. On the middle shelf where the BW 30 files were arranged, I found two that were carefully boxed and tied, marked in black letters Główna Komisja Badania Zbrodni Hitlerowskich w Polsce (Central Commission for the Investigation of Hitlerian Crimes in Poland) that I had never seen. I took them and put them on small table that had been placed there to facilitate handling the documents. The open boxes revealed twelve small files, ten catalogued BW 30/32 to 42, plus 30/32 A and 30/34 A. Seeing my surprise, mixed with a certain expressed irritation, I was so assured me that he had received them only two months earlier [1]. After quickly checking to see whether there was anything new among the fourteen drawings of the BW 30/34 A. I came across the timesheets of Messing, a Topf file. Messing had noted, week by week, the details of the work of installing all the ventilation in Krematorium II and III. His records confirm what I had been trying to prove for two years. Obviously, the «Auskleidekeller» (undressing cellars) started its immediately. The visit had to end there because I had little time to look over everything before returning to France. I never finished sorting the archives. I bet I was in a bottle of (Romanian) champagne that these new files would reveal «traces/clips» with «Gaw». By the time the archives closed I had found a «Gawka» (gas chamber) in BW 30/38 and asked for it to be sent to me in microfilm form as soon as possible, which was done. As for the champagne, our schedules being so tight, it became purely symbolic.

These «rediscovered» files are extremely important. They contain eleven «clips» by civilian employees participating in the construction of the Krematorium. What is more, the timesheets [Document 27], brought further evidence regarding the already necessary significance of a Banleitungs telegram [Document 28] urgently requesting Topf to supply «10 Gasprüfer/10 gas detectors» for BW 30 [Krematorium II]. I call «clips», the fact that a civilian working in an underground morgue (here Leichenkeller 2) of an apparently normal cremation installation can write instead of «Leichenkeller 2», «Auskleidekeller 2» (undressing cellar), which means that he had understood and knew very well what the purpose of this installation was. He was prudent, however, and did not have the courage to go all the way and call Leichenkeller I «Gawka I» or «Vergasungsbettel I».

Messing's timesheets are the best documents found on the ventilation installations in Krematorium II and III. They cover in particular the period during which Krematorium II was unofficially brought into service. Messing was the linguist in this work. Gassing would not have been possible in an underground gas chamber without a proper ventilation system. The beginning of the industrial extermination programme depended directly on his work.



Document 33
(PMG orig. no. 291)

THE FURNACE ROOM OF KREMATORIUM II, END JANUARY 1943 looking west-east. At the far end on the right is the corridor from which a staircase led to the roof space and at the end of which was the room known as «prisoners rest room» where Dr Nyrzyl and his assistants were housed in summer 1944. The hot air evacuation openings are indicated above furnaces 2, 3, 4 and 5, that of furnace 1 being hidden by a supporting beam. These openings were connected to a duct leading to the main ventilation chimney. It is impossible to state whether this was the first or second opening at the east end, the other opening being the gas chamber noxious air outlet. David Olère relates that when the members of the Sonderkommando were made to live in the roof space of Krematorium II and III, the favourite places to sleep were along the ducting, because of the heat given off.

This photograph was already famous at the time. Pery Broad speaks of it

«Krematorium I [II] and II [III] were fitted with 15 furnaces each able to take four or five corpses. The Auschwitz camp Banleitungs was so proud of its work that a collection of photos of the Krematorium was publicly exhibited in the vestibule of its main building.

It had been entirely forgotten that the civilians who were going in and out paint a close up picture of 15 cremation furnaces neatly aligned one beside the other might have been inclined to reflect less about the technical capabilities of the Banleitungs and much more about some of the more dubious institutions of the Third Reich.

It is true that Götter soon intervened and quickly put an end to this singular propaganda, but he could not prevent the Banleitungs from employing civilian workers who, naturally, were perfectly familiar with the Krematorium equipment. When they left the camp they told all that they had seen.»

Al schrift

21. Okt. 1941

116

Bttr. Nr. 715 7/41 sa.

Fest. Bestellung von Topf-Dreimuffelöfen, Saugzuganlagen und Müll-
verbrennungsöfen.
Beratung zwischen dem Hies. Bauleiter F. Buschhoff und Ihrem
Herrn Prüfer
Abg. - - -

Pläne
i. T o p f u. Söhne
E r f u r t

Die Bauleitung der Waffen- und Polizei-Anschwitz nimmt Bezug auf die
Interpretation zwischen ihm und Herrn Prüfer und dem hiesigen Bauleiter F.
Buschhoff und erteilt Ihnen Auftrag auf:

- 5 Stk. Topf - Dreimuffelöfen mit Druckluftanlage
- 2 Stk. Topf - Saugzuganlagen für an. je 10 000 cfm Abgas je
- 1 Stk. Topf - Müllverbrennungsöfen.

In den Öfen liefern Sie die gesamte Chamotte und Isoliermaterialien
sowie alle gußeisernen Teile: die Rohrleitung und die Druckluftgebläse.
Menschen der Hies. Bauleitung werden die zu den Öfen gehörenden Baumate-
rialien wie Ziegelsteine, Sand, Kalk und Zement und die schmiedeeisernen
Verankerungen geliefert.

Für die Bestellung wird um Ihren ausführlichen Kostenanschlag gebeten,
dessen Preise dann diesem Auftrag zugrunde gelegt werden. Erwünscht
ist weiterhin noch ein Kostenanschlag über die Entlüftungsanlage in
den beiden Leichenkellern, Keller- und Ofenraum.

Da das Projekt dringend ist, wird gebeten, die Zeichnungen für das
Ofenfundament und der sonstigen Kanäle sofort anzufertigen und der
Bauleitung innerhalb 14 Tagen vorzustellen.

Die Lieferung der o. erwähnten Teile zu den Öfen muss innerhalb
3 Monaten geschehen.

In ca. 6 Wochen stellen Sie der hiesigen Bauleitung einen Ihrer Monteure
zur Verfügung, der die Fundamentarbeiten überwacht.

2 Pläne über das Projekt wurden Ihrem Herrn Prüfer bereits eingehan-
delt. Nach diesen Plänen werden Sie der Bauleitung die Angaben über die
erforderlichen Schornsteinquerschnitte und Höhen bekanntgeben.

gen. Unterschrift

f. Buschhoff

COPY

Correspondence register no 715 7/41 Ho.

22nd October 1941

Subject: Order for three-muffle Topf furnaces, suction type forced draught installation and waste in-
cinerator.

Reference: Conversation between our Director of construction K. Buschhoff and your Mr Prüfer.

Enclosure: ---

Messrs. J. Topf & Sons,

Erfurt

The Anschwitz Waffen-SS and Police Construction Management, referring to the conversation
between your Mr Prüfer and our construction Director K. Buschhoff, hereby orders

- 5 Topf three-muffle furnaces with pushed air installations
- 2 Topf suction-type forced draught installations, each of approximately 10,000 m³ per hour
- 1 Topf waste incinerator.

With the furnaces you are to deliver all the refractory and insulating materials, as well as all cast iron
components, ducting and pushed air components. The Construction Management here will supply the other
materials necessary for building the furnaces, such as bricks, sand, lime and cement and the wrought iron
anchoring components.

For this order we would ask you to furnish a detailed quotation whose prices will be the basis for the
contract. We should also like a quotation for air extraction systems for the two corpse cellars, the dissec-
ting rooms and the furnace rooms.

This project being urgent, we would ask you to immediately draw the plans for the foundation of the
furnaces and associated flues and channels and submit these drawings to the Bauleitung within 14 days.

The furnace components listed above shall be delivered within three months.

In about 6 weeks you shall make available to our Bauleitung one of your fitters who will supervise the
building of the foundations.

Mr Prüfer has already been given two drawings concerning this project. On the basis of these
drawings, you are to furnish the Bauleitung with data concerning the required section and height of the
chimney.

Signature

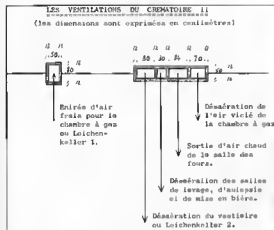
For Second-Lieutenant Janisch (copy of BW 30/27)

For Second-Lieutenant Kurschnek (copy of BW 30/34)

There are two copies of this letter, one for Janusch, the other for Kurschnek, both Bauleitung Unterschriftsführer (SS Second
Lieutenant). The respective references of these letters are:

- BW 30/27, page 27;
- BW 30/34, page 116, microfilm 1060.

This letter is the first concerning the installation of what was to become the future Birkenau Krematorium II, but was at
that time planned as a new Krematorium at the main camp. No "criminal premeditation" can be attributed to the ventilation,
since it concerns BOTH corpse cellars, the dissecting room and the furnace room.

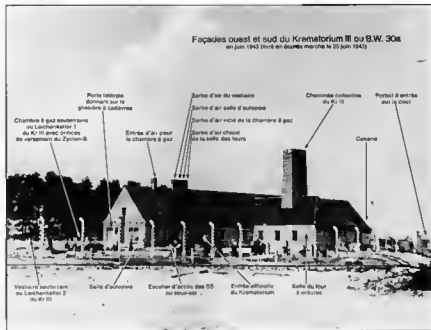


Document 25

Definite diagram of the ventilation channels established on the basis of all known evidence

THE VENTILATION CHIMNEYS OF KREMATORIUM II
(all dimensions in centimetres)

- Entrée d'air frais pour la chambre à gaz ou Leichenkeller 1/
Fresh air intake for the gas chamber or Leichenkeller 1
- Désaération de l'air vicié de la chambre à gaz/
Outlet for noxious air from the gas chamber
- Sortie d'air chaud de la salle des fours/
Outlet for hot air from the furnace room
- Désaération des salles de lavage, d'autopsie et de mise en bière/
Outlet from the washing, dissecting and laying out rooms
- Désaération du vestiaire ou Leichenkeller 2/
Outlet from the dressing room or Leichenkeller 2



Document 26

PMI photograph Neg. No. 20955/587, mounted by the author and published on page 215 of - L. Alfken & Anselme -, Editions du Seuil, 1983

West and South aspect of Krematorium III or B.W. 30a
in June 1943 (handed over in working order on 25th June 1943)

- Chambre à gaz souterraine ou Leichenkeller 1 du Kr III avec onices de versement du Zyklon-B/
Underground gas chamber or Leichenkeller 1 of Krematorium III with onices for pouring in Zyklon B
- Porte latérale donnant sur la glissière à cadavres/
Side door leading to the corpse chute
- Entrée d'air pour la chambre à gaz/
Air intake for the gas chamber
- Sortie d'air du vestiaire/
Dressing room air outlet
- Sortie d'air sale d'autopsie/
Dissecting room air outlet
- Sortie d'air vicié de la chambre à gaz/
Gas chamber noxious air outlet
- Sortie d'air chaud de la salle des fours/
Furnace room hot air outlet
- Cheminée collective du Kr III/
Collective chimney of Krematorium III
- Cafétéria/
Cafeteria
- Portail d'entrée sur la cour/
Yard entrance gates
- Vestiaire souterrain ou Leichenkeller 2 du Kr III/
Underground dressing room or Leichenkeller 2 of Krematorium III
- Salle d'autopsie/
Dissecting room
- Escalier d'accès des SS au sous-sol/
Stairway for SS access to the basement
- Entrée officielle du Krematorium/
Official entrance to the Krematorium
- Salle du four à ordures/
Waste incinerator room

VENTILATION SYSTEM INSTALLATION WORK IN KREMATORIIEN II and III CARRIED OUT BY MESSING, A TOFF & SONS FITTER, BETWEEN 15TH JANUARY AND 9TH JUNE 1943

The translation of Messing's "TIMESHEETS" is literal. The term "L-Keller" is rendered as "C-cellar" to better convey the abbreviation used in the German for "Leichenkeller/corpses cellar" and emphasize

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 04/05/01: | Rene. | 04/05/01: | Travel. |
| 05/10/01: | Montage d. Saugzug-Anlagen im Krematorium. | 05/10/01: | Fitting of suction-type forced draught installations [on the smoke flues] in the Krematorium. |
| 11/17/01: | Transport und Montage der 3 Saugzug-Anlagen im Krematorium I (II) | 11/17/01: | Transport and fitting of three suction-type forced draught installations in Krematorium I (II). |
| 18/24/01: | Saugzug-Anlagen im Krematorium I, K.G.L. montiert. (II) | 18/24/01: | Erection of forced draught installations in Krematorium I (II) of PWO camp (Birkenau). |
| 25/31/01: | Saugzug-Anlage im Krematorium I, K.G.L. montiert. (II) | 25/31/01: | Fitting forced draught, ventilation and an extraction installations |
| | 3 Stück Saugzug-Anlagen für die 3 Dreifußöfen montiert. | | Fitting 3 secondary blowers [stoves] for the five three-muffle furnaces. |
| | Transport des Materials. | | Transport of material. |
| 01/07/02: | Saugzug-Anlage für die drei Dreifußöfen montiert. | 01/07/02: | Fitting of the secondary blowers for the five three-muffle furnaces. |
| 08/14/02: | Beauverie 30a im Krematorium IV Ofenraumverklebung gesch. und gepackt eingest. | 08/14/02: | Worksite 30a in Krematorium IV furnace anchoring [wood] (legible) and totally completed |
| | Abziehgebläse für L-Keller I, Abziehgebläse für Wasch Stn. u. Aufbrennraum montiert | | At extraction fan for C-cellar I. At extraction fan for the washing, dissecting and laying out rooms fitted |
| | Krematorium II, Bauwerk 30. | | Krematorium II, worksite 30 |
| 15/21/02: | Entlüftungsbälge Ofenraum Entlüftungsanlage fertig montiert. | 15/21/02: | Finished fitting the extractor fan for the furnace room ventilation installation. |
| 22/28/02: | Krematorium IV, Eisenröhre für Verpackungsaufzug eingest. | 22/28/02: | Krematorium IV, iron extraction duct fully completed. |
| | Krematorium II, Entlüftungsbälge für den L-Keller I aufmontiert. | | Krematorium II, an extractor fan for C-cellar I refitted |
| | An der Entlüftungsanlage für L-Keller II gearbeitet. | | Work on the air extraction duct for C-cellar II |

[PMO file BW 3034 page 40]

| Anticht. Text. | Telegramm | B.W. 30 | Address | Telegramm | Worksite 30 |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Topfwerke Erfurt. | | | Topfwerke Erfurt. | | |
| Abseide sofort 10 Glasröhre wie besprochen. | | | Send immediately 10 gas detectors as arranged verbally. Quote to follow later. | | |
| Kostenangebot später nachreichen. | | | Auschwitz Central Construction Management | | |
| | Zentralbeurteilung Auschwitz | | | Signed Pofok | |
| | per Pofok | | | SS Second Lieutenant | |
| 28.2.43 | 18.2.43 | Unfall Kirschneck | 28.2.43 | 18.2.43 | SS Second Lieutenant Kirschneck |
| | | J.H. | | | J.H. (fing. Civilian worker) |

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01/07/03: | Zu den IIe und Entlüftungs Anlagen für II Drehklappen eingebaut | 01/07/03: | Worksite 30 butterfly valves installed in ventilation and extraction installations for C.I. |
| 08/14/03: | Die Anlagen in Betrieb genommen. B.W. 30. | 08/14/03: | These installations put into service. |
| | B.W. 30 Entlüftungs-Lösung für Ausziehklappe montiert | | Worksite 30. An extraction duct for underdrawing cellar fitted. |
| | Be u Entlüftungs Anlagen für L-Keller I, versuchsweise einbauen. | | Test operation of ventilation and extraction installation for C-cellar I. |
| | Entlüftungs-Anlagen Ausziehklappe gearbeitet. | | Work on the air extraction installation for the underdrawing cellar. |
| | Be u Entlüftungsanlagen Keller I in Betrieb genommen | | Ventilation and extraction installation of cellar I brought into service (13.4.43). |
| | Entlüftungsanlage für Ausziehklappe II gearbeitet | | Work on the air extraction duct for underdrawing cellar I. |
| 15/21/03: | Entlüftungs-Anlagen für L-Keller II montiert. B.W. 30 | 15/21/03: | Fitting air extraction installations for C-cellar I. Worksite 30. |
| 22/28/03: | Bauwerk 30 Entlüftungsventilator vom Ausziehklappe umgearbeitet und Blechrohrleitung verlegt. | 22/28/03: | Worksite 30. Air extraction fan for underdrawing cellar modified and metal duct refitted. |
| 25/31/03: | Bauwerk 30 Krematorium II. | 25/31/03: | (Worksite 30) Krematorium II. |
| | Entlüftungsanlagen Ausziehklappe verlegt. | | Fitted the air extraction installations for underdrawing cellar. |
| 01/04/04: | Bauwerk 30a. | 01/04/04: | Worksite 30a. |
| 05/11/04: | Entlüftungs-Anlage III Ofenraum im Krematorium III montiert. | 05/11/04: | Air extraction installation for the furnace room for Krematorium III fixed. |
| | Bauwerk 30a. | | Worksite 30a. |
| | Ofenraum Entlüftungsanlage | | Air extraction installation for the furnace room |
| 12/18/04: | Beziehungsgebläse für L-Keller I montiert. | | Fitting extractor fan for C-cellar I. |
| | Bauwerk 30. | | Worksite 30. |
| | Fahrstuhl repariert. | | Repaired lift |
| | Bauwerk 30a. | | Worksite 30a. |
| | Entlüftungs-Anlagen für Ausziehklappe montiert. | | Air extraction installations for the underdrawing cellar fitted |
| | Entlüftungsanlage für Ofenraum | | Air extraction duct for the furnace room. |
| | Dreieckklappen eingebaut. | | Insertion of butterfly valves. |
| 19/22/04: | Entlüftungs-Anlage im Ausziehklappe Bauwerk 30a montiert. | 19/22/04: | Fitting air extraction installation in the underdrawing cellar of Worksite 30a. |
| 22/26/04: | 1 pas d'assonon de temps de travail | 22/26/04: | (No timesheet) |
| 23/4/05: | Entlüftungsanlagen im Bauwerk 30a sowie Gebläse montiert. (27/30/04) | 27/4/05: | Fitting air extraction installations and fan at Worksite 30a. |
| 03/09/05: | Nationaler Feiertag I Mai. (01 u 02/05) | 03/09/05: | 1st May national holiday (1st and 2nd May). |
| | Bauwerk 30a. | | Worksite 30a. |
| | Ent. u. Belüftungsanlagen. | | Ventilation and extraction installations. |
| 10/16/05: | Gebläse für Saugzug-Wasch u. Aufbrennraum montiert. | 10/16/05: | Extractor fan for washing, dissecting and laying out rooms fitted. |
| | Bauwerk 30a. | | Worksite 30a. |
| | Be und Entlüftungsanlagen montiert. | | Ventilation and the extraction installations |
| | Bauwerk 30. | | Worksite 30. |
| 17/23/05: | Entlüftungsgebläse für L.I. ausgewechselt. | 17/23/05: | Extractor fan for C.I. changed. |
| | Bauwerk 30a. | | Worksite 30a. |
| | Aufzug montiert. | | Lift fixed. |
| 24/30/05: | Tour identique à l'emplacement | 24/30/05: | Tour identical to previous |
| 31/05/05: | préparation de l'assonon | 31/05/05: | following not copied |
| 01/06/06: | Montage des Aufzuges im Krematorium III Bauwerk 30a. | 01/06/06: | Fitting Krematorium III lift. Worksite 30a. |
| 07/09/06: | Perrichtung des Aufzuges im Krematorium III Bauwerk 30a. | 07/09/06: | Completion of Krematorium III lift. Worksite 30a. |
| 10/11/06: | Rückreise nach Erfurt. | 10/11/06: | Return journey to Erfurt. |

COMMENTS

Messing worked successively on the following tasks [the terms have been simplified and «Leichenkeller I and 2» have been replaced by «gas chamber» and «undressing room» respectively, the terms designating their true function]:

1. Fitting 3 forced draught installations alongside the collective chimney of Krematorium II
2. Fitting 5 pulsed air blowers, one on the side of each of the 5 furnaces of Krematorium II
3. Fitting the extractor fan for the gas chamber of Krematorium II.
4. Fitting the extractor fan for the dissecting, washing and laying out rooms of Krematorium II.
5. Fitting an air extractor fan in the furnace room of Krematorium II.
6. Fitting an air extraction duct in the undressing room of Krematorium II
7. Testing the ventilation and air extraction installations of the gas chamber of Krematorium II [10th and 11th March].
8. Bringing into service the ventilation system of the Krematorium II gas chamber [13th March].
9. Installing the air extractor fan and duct in the undressing room of Krematorium II.
10. Fitting the air extraction system of the Krematorium II furnace room.
11. Fitting the extractor fan for the Krematorium II gas chamber.
12. Repair of the Krematorium II lift.
13. Finish fitting the ventilation system for the undressing room of Krematorium III.
14. Fitting the extractor fan for the dissecting, washing and laying out rooms of Krematorium III.
15. Changing the extractor fan of the Krematorium II gas chamber.
16. Fitting Krematorium III lift.

Henryk Tauber, a former member of the Sonderkommando of Krematorium II, testified that.

On 4th March 1943, he and his companions lit the hearths of the five furnaces in the morning and kept them going until 4 pm. Then 45 gassed victims, well fleshed, brought from Bunker 2 were incinerated, three per muffle in the 15 muffles of Krematorium II. The operation took 40 minutes and was carried out in the presence of members of the political section of the camp, high-ranking SS officers and civilians and Topf engineers.

The furnaces were kept going fourteen days, without any further cremations.

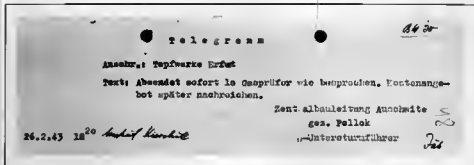
In the evening of Sunday 14th March, 1500 Cracow Jews were gassed in Leichenkeller I after having undressed in a provisional undressing hut erected in the yard of Krematorium II.

The dates given by Tauber and those of Messing's timesheets coincide perfectly. The originals [Documents 29 to 33], were filled in in green pencil by Messing. His working days were very long, eleven hours on average. On Sundays he worked only eight hours, but counted double. On 10th March, at the beginning of the «visits» on Leichenkeller I, he worked sixteen hours, and on the 13th, when the installation came into service, fifteen hours. These are the longest days worked during the five months he spent at Auschwitz. It is now easy to understand why — the SS were in a terrible hurry.

It is likely that Messing filled in his timesheets not every day, but at the end of the week. He does not use the term «Auskleidekeller» until after 11th March (or 14th if he filled in his timesheets on the Sunday), as soon as the function of Leichenkeller 2 became obvious to him. The provisional undressing hut in the yard was used only until Messing finished his work in Leichenkeller 2, when it became redundant and was dismantled.

[I have no idea what Messing must have thought as he was installing the motors, blowers, valves and ducts of the ventilation systems [Document 34]. After 15th March he could not have any doubts about the final destination of his work. As the first civilian witness of large scale gassing he must have spoken about it to his family and friends on his return to Erfurt. The telegram of 26th February 1943 proves that Topf & Sons were very much involved in the technical implementation of the gassing system. Compromising themselves with the SS in what they did «by order» and, what is even worse, solely for commercial gain, resulted in 1945 in the suicide of the managing Director, Ludwig Topf Junior whose «nerves had gone to pieces» [Weinart State Archives, Bestand Topf & Söhne No 2555, Aktennotiz of 11th October 1945] and the arrest by the Russians, in the afternoon of 4th March 1946, of Kurt Pöfner, head of the D IV, cremation installations, division of this firm [same source, Aktennotiz registered on 24th April 1946].

In conclusion, a civilian not employed by KL Auschwitz, in his timesheets, FIVE times called Leichenkeller 2 [i.e. one of the underground morgues] of Krematorium II and TWICE that of Krematorium III the «undressing cellars». The chronology of his work confirms that the 10 GAS DETECTORS requested for Krematorium II were used to test the ventilation of its gas chamber.



Document 38
[page 48 of 204]
The telegram requesting immediate dispatch of 10 gas detectors.

The telegrams written in green ink are by Ing. Sachbearbeiter Jähring, a civilian heating engineer attached to the technical section of the Bauleitung and in charge of the documentation concerning Krematorium construction. As from January 1943, he was responsible for putting in order the correspondence concerning these buildings under the overall responsibility, it would appear, of Ustuf Kirschneck. It is Jähring who calculated the (theoretical) consumption of the Krematorium, making a mistake which earned him a reprimand from Kirschneck.

This telegram, standing out from the other BW 30/34 documents, was an inquiry. Why would the Bauleitung ask for 10 GAS DETECTORS from Topf, A FURNACE MANUFACTURER? Topf was neither Degesch nor Tesch and Stabenow, manufacturers and distributors of Zyklon-B. Two solutions were possible: detection of the products of combustion, such as CO or CO₂, in the furnace room, or residual presence of HCN in the Krematorium II (BW 30) gas chamber. The timesheets make it possible to understand the exact significance of this telegram. On 24th and 25th February 1943, Messing was refitting an air extractor fan for Leichenkeller I. The gas chamber appears to be operational. SS Second Lieutenant Kirschneck on the evening of the 26th sends a telegram for the immediate dispatch of «Gasprüfer» to an enterprise specialised in the manufacture of furnaces and boilers. Topf will necessarily have to sub-contract this order. Between 1st and 7th March Messing completes all the installations of Leichenkeller I. On 10th and 11th the «Gasprüfer» must have arrived, because they proceed to «tests». What tests? Surely determining the quantity of Zyklon-B to be used then, after ventilation, measuring the residual presence of toxic gas. By the 13th, everything is in order and the gas chamber is ready for work. On the evening of the 14th, it is inaugurated by 1500 Cracow Jews.

This implausible and unreliable sequence of events, putting in its proper context the little copy of the telegram sent on 26th February 1943 at 18:20 hours, demonstrates the guilt of Messrs Topf the preparation of the gas chambers and proves that the «10 Gasprüfer» are damning evidence in the demonstration of the existence of homicidal gas chambers in the Krematorium.

J. A. TOPF & SÖHNE, ENFURT
ARBEITSZEIT-BESCHEINIGUNG
 Montageabteilung

Zeitraum: 1.9.5
 Name: *W. Schilling*
 Abteilungsleiter: *W. 30*

| Wochentag | I. Feinprüfungs-Arbeit | | | | | | | II. Zerschnitt-Arbeit | | | | | | | Sonstige Bemerkungen der gesamten Abteilung |
|------------------|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| Montag 1.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30 |
| Dienstag 2.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mittwoch 3.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Donnerstag 4.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Freitag 5.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Samstag 6.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sonntag 7.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Summe | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Unterschiede der Vorgesetzten-Bemerkungen siehe unten
 In letzter Zeile der gesamten Abteilung auf Grund eigener Bemerkungen

Montageabteilung: *W. 30*

Document 29

J. A. TOPF & SÖHNE, ENFURT
ARBEITSZEIT-BESCHEINIGUNG
 Montageabteilung

Zeitraum: 1.9.5
 Name: *W. Schilling*
 Abteilungsleiter: *W. 30*

| Wochentag | I. Feinprüfungs-Arbeit | | | | | | | II. Zerschnitt-Arbeit | | | | | | | Sonstige Bemerkungen der gesamten Abteilung |
|------------------|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| Montag 1.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30 |
| Dienstag 2.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mittwoch 3.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Donnerstag 4.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Freitag 5.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Samstag 6.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sonntag 7.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Summe | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Unterschiede der Vorgesetzten-Bemerkungen siehe unten
 In letzter Zeile der gesamten Abteilung auf Grund eigener Bemerkungen

Montageabteilung: *W. 30*

Document 31

J. A. TOPF & SÖHNE, ENFURT
ARBEITSZEIT-BESCHEINIGUNG
 Montageabteilung

Zeitraum: 1.9.5
 Name: *W. Schilling*
 Abteilungsleiter: *W. 30*

| Wochentag | I. Feinprüfungs-Arbeit | | | | | | | II. Zerschnitt-Arbeit | | | | | | | Sonstige Bemerkungen der gesamten Abteilung |
|------------------|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| Montag 1.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30 |
| Dienstag 2.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mittwoch 3.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Donnerstag 4.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Freitag 5.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Samstag 6.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sonntag 7.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Summe | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Unterschiede der Vorgesetzten-Bemerkungen siehe unten
 In letzter Zeile der gesamten Abteilung auf Grund eigener Bemerkungen

Montageabteilung: *W. 30*

Document 30

J. A. TOPF & SÖHNE, ENFURT
ARBEITSZEIT-BESCHEINIGUNG
 Montageabteilung

Zeitraum: 1.9.5
 Name: *W. Schilling*
 Abteilungsleiter: *W. 30*

| Wochentag | I. Feinprüfungs-Arbeit | | | | | | | II. Zerschnitt-Arbeit | | | | | | | Sonstige Bemerkungen der gesamten Abteilung |
|------------------|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| Montag 1.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30
Zerschnitt 30 |
| Dienstag 2.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mittwoch 3.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Donnerstag 4.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Freitag 5.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Samstag 6.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sonntag 7.9.5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Summe | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Unterschiede der Vorgesetzten-Bemerkungen siehe unten
 In letzter Zeile der gesamten Abteilung auf Grund eigener Bemerkungen

Montageabteilung: *W. 30*

Document 32

[illegible]

A black and white photograph of the main building of the Khatyn memorial complex. The building is long and low, with a series of gabled roofs and a central tower. It is situated behind a body of water, with a rocky shore in the foreground.

Pos. Lion du photographe (document 34).

Views of the shaft side of Korymbetum II as it accreted completely on early or mid January 1943. In the foreground on the right is Leichenkammer II, the former gas chamber, whose construction is complete, but has not yet been heated by the furnace. The slope is under construction; the Zyklo II has been installed. The skylight in the Korymbetum is under construction, as is the stainless-ventilator chimney on the ridge of the roof. The separate ventilator chimney [Heiss on the inside of Leichenkammer I] is completed and a furnace is working on the main ventilator chimney which has four air outlets. The furnace is or has been working, as the snow has melted immediately above the furnace's roof.

Document 29: (Page 38 of 89) 30-41)

BW 30 [K1 II] Endigungs-Lernung für AUSKLEIDEKELLER
modelliert

Worksheet 30 [Kz D]. Find the extraction duct for UNDRRESSING
CUT 3.40

- CELLAR
u. a. Endfrühs Anlagen für 1-Kellerl. verschawene eingebaut.
Performance test of the ventilation and extraction installations
for Cellar I
Entfrühs Anlagen AUSKLEIDKELLER gearbeitet
Work on the air extraction installations of the UNDRRESSING CELLAR
B. u. Endfrühsanlagen Kellerl in Betrieb genommen
Ventilation and extraction installations of cellar brought into service
[13th March 1943].
Entfrühsleistung für AUSKLEIDKELLER u. gearbeitet
Work on the air extraction ducts for the UNDRRESSING CELLAR 2.

Document 30; [Page 36 of 200 30-41]

Work from 22nd to 28th March 1943

4. Bauwerk 30: Entlüftungsventilator vom AUSKLEIDEKELLER umgearbeitet und Blechrohrleitung verlagert.
 Workzone 30 [Kr.II]: Modified the air extingtuor fan for the UNDRESSINGCELLAR and refitted the steel duct.

Document 31 Page 25 of BW 30611

29th, 30th and 31st March 1943:

- Worksite 30 Krematorium II. Refined the an extraction installations of the UNDRESSING CELLAR.

Document 31. (Page 12 of 80 10/4/1)

Week from 12th to 18th April 1943

- Burawork 30 [K-I]. Fahrzeug repariert.
- Worksite 30 [K-II]. Repaired ich
- Burawork 30a [K-III]. Entlüftungs-Anlagen für AUSKLEIDKELLER
 moisture
- Worksite 30a [K-III]. Fixed the air extraction installations for the
 UNDRESSING CELLAR
- Entlüftungsaussaugung für Gießraum.
Air extraction duct for the furnace room.
- Doseckklappe angehängt
Inverted, butterfly valves.

Document 38: Page 10 of NW 30411

19th, 20th and 21st April 1943

- Inspected the air extraction installation in the UNDRESSING CELLAR of Worksite 30a [Kr III].

SIZES OF THE ELECTRIC MOTORS USED IN THE VARIOUS VENTILATION INSTALLATIONS OF KREMATORIIEN II AND III

SOURCES

1. [BW 30/34, p. 97]
A request for missing equipment emanating from Messing and sent to Topf by SS Second Lieutenant Kirschneck 3rd February 1943 indicates:
 - Leichenkeller 1/gas chamber: 1 fresh air fan No 450;
 - Leichenkeller 2/undressing room: 1 extractor fan No 550;
 - Ofenraum/furnace room: 1 extractor fan No 550;
 - Sezier-, Wasch- u. Aufbahrungsraum/dissecting, washing and laying out room: 1 extractor fan No 375
2. [BW 30/27, p. 55]
The telegram sent by Kirschneck on 3rd February 1943 repeats the same designations for this equipment [Document 30].

 [The above two documents mention only the types of fans without any information on the type or size of motor used].
3. [BW 30/34, p. 84 and BW 30/27, p. 61]
Mention of a telegram of 11th February 1943 sent by the Bauleitung in a letter of reply from Topf dated 12th February 1943 and concerning the immediate dispatch of:
 - Leichenkeller 1/gas chamber: 1 No. 450 fan with 3.5 HP motor;
 - Leichenkeller 2/undressing room: 1 No. 550 fan with 7.5 HP motor
4. [BW 30/34, p. 85 and verso]
A Bauleitung letter of 11th February 1943 to Topf confirming the lack of the following fans and motors:
 - Leichenkeller 1/gas chamber: 1 No. 450 fan with 3.5 HP motor;
 - Leichenkeller 2/undressing room: 1 No. 550 fan with 7.5 HP motor
5. [BW 30/34, p. 84 and BW 30/27, p. 61]
A Topf letter of 11th February 1943 received by the Bauleitung on 14th February 1943 confirming the dispatch of:
 - One No. 450 fan [for Leichenkeller 1/gas chamber];
 - A wooden No. 450 fan [probably an error: should be 550], whose 7.5 HP motor is missing and will be temporarily replaced by a 10 HP motor with the same speed of rotation.
6. [BW 30/25, p. 7 (miscell. N° 1322)]
A Bauleitung letter of 6th March 1943 to Topf indicates [Document 36]:
 - the air extraction installation of undressing room [Leichenkeller 2]
7. [BW 30/43, p. 19 (a), p. 22 (b)]
Two inventory forms filled in for the official handover of the building indicate:
 (a) In the roof space of Krematorium II [Document 37]:
 - 1 fan with 1.5 HP electric motor [difficult to read];
 - 2 fans with 3.5 HP electric motor;
 - 1 fan with 4.5 HP electric motor [difficult to read];
 - 1 10 HP electric motor with lift gear, on loan!
- (b) In the roof space of Krematorium III [Document 38]:
 - 1 2.5 kW electric motor;
 - 2 2.6 kW electric motors;
 - 2 5.6 kW electric motors;
 - 1 1.1 kW electric motor.

The emplacement for the lift and ventilation motors are confirmed by the testimony of a former prisoner, Potrebki, who was a member of the electrician commando from spring 1942 to the beginning of 1945 [*Le Procès d'Auschwitz* by H. Langbein, p. 92 ff]:

-In Krematorium I [II] and II [III], there were electric extractor fans to evacuate the gas and blowers by the furnaces to improve the fire...-

-... In the roof space there was a room for the Sonderanordnungen [summer 1944]. There there was also a lift and the installation for the ventilator fans and an electrical safety installation - from up of the roof space, in the western part of drawing 5803)

None of these documents gives a COMPLETE description of the ventilated rooms together with the fans and motors SPECIFIC to each.

The synthesis of these sources can be summarised in a table where the motor sizes are expressed in kW/HP to harmonise the data with two suggested distributions, the only ones LOGICALLY possible in the light of the information available [Document 39].

Distribution 1 is based on:

- Reserving the most powerful motor for the lift;
- Distributing the motors of equal power to rooms with fans of the same type (550 for the furnace room and the undressing room);
- Allocating the most powerful remaining motor, or one of equal power to those driving the type 550 fans, to the gas chamber.

Distribution 2 is based on:

- Distributing the motors according to the volume of the rooms [the letters exchanged between the Bauleitung and Topf between 3rd and 12th February 1943 shows that the power required depended on the size of the rooms:
 Ofenraum = Leichenkeller 2 > Leichenkeller 1 > Sezier-, Wasch- u. Aufbahrungsraum.
- Allocating of the gas chamber motor in accordance with Messing's request;
- The most powerful motor given to the lift then the next is the furnace room.

It would seem that distribution 2 is the more likely one with motors of equal powers being attributed to each of the main large rooms. The difference between what was ordered and what was supplied shows the difficulties and delays that Topf were experiencing in obtaining electric motors of given sizes at the beginning of 1943 and illustrates the already critical situation of the Reich economy.

Other motors were also installed:

1. 5 pulsed air blower motors, one on one side of each furnace [to accelerate incineration], with a unit power of 2.2 kW or 3.0 HP, or a total of 11 kW or 15 HP per Krematorium of type II/III.
2. 3 motors for the forced draught installations, each of 11 kW or 15 HP, or a total for Krematorium II of 33 kW or 45 HP. These were rapidly removed as a result of faults and a small fire. Those of Krematorium III were never even installed.

The total electric motor power requirement was:

- Krematorium II: 60.9 kW or 83 HP, then after removal of the forced draught installations, 27.9 kW or 38 HP;
- Krematorium III: 31 kW or 42.2 HP

The Archives of the Warsaw Central Commission possess a general plan of the PWO camp, Bauleitung drawing 2503 of 18th June 1943, showing the electric motors installed.
 Krematorium II: 11 motors totalling 40.30 kW or 55 HP;
 Krematorium III: 12 motors totalling 35.06 kW or 47.8 HP.

The discrepancy between the number of motors known (10 and 11) and those of the drawing (12 and 13), between my findings on the total power and those of the drawing, are due to unknown factors. A motor may perhaps have been used for pumping or evacuating waste water from the Krematorien. In order to carry coaxes up to the ground floor, a provisional hoist was first installed, then a permanent Demag goods lift, with different powers. Such factors mean that the study of motor sizes for the ventilation systems of Krematorium II and III cannot give absolutely precise results.

Telegramm der Zentralverwaltung Auschwitz an die Firma
Topf u. Sohne, Erfurt, vom 3.2.43.

Abtschrift:

Sendet per Eilgut dringend Abluftgebläse Nr. 550 samt Saug-,
Drucktutzen u. Drosselklappe für L. Keller II. Abluftgebläse
Nr. 550 mit Drucktutzen für Ofenraum, Saug u. Drucktutzen
für Gebläse 375 für Esszimmer, Keldrosselklappe für L. Keller I.*
Zentralbohleleitung Auschwitz.

/ in Bleischrift geschrieben/

Herr Ing. Schulze teilt auf telef. Anruf am 3.2.43 und 1615
Uhr mit, dass alle oben eingeführten Gegenstände verlässlich
am Samstag den 6.1. angeliefert werden, da gegenwärtig noch
nicht fertig.

Kirschneck.

3.2.43
Kirschneck.

Document 35 (PMD file BW 3027, page 55)

Telegram from the Auschwitz Central Construction Management to Topf & Sons, Erfurt on 3rd February 1943.

Copie:

Send urgently by express air extraction blower No. 550 with suction
and pressure connections and regulating valve for C-cellar 2, air extraction blower
No. 550 with pressure connection for furnace room, suction and pressure connec-
tions for 375 blower for dissecting room, wooden regulating valve for C-cellar 1.

Auschwitz Central Construction Management

Written in pencil/

Engineer Schulze communicated by telephone on 3rd February 1943 at 16:15 hours
that all the above items will be dispatched without fail Saturday, 6.1 [error, it should
be 6.2], for they are not yet ready.

Kirschneck.

3.2.43
Kirschneck.

(Description manuscript) Krems II u. III

Ref: 24365/43/1a

Auschwitz, am 6.3.1943

Betr.: KZ Auschwitz, Krems II und III KGL, BW 30 u. 3a
Bzsg.: Dort. Schreiben vom 22.2.43 D.IV.Pr.
Anl.: . . .

Firma
Topf und Söhne
Erfurt

Auf Grund Ihres Verschlages erklärt sich die Dienststelle einverstanden,
dass der Keller I mit der Abfuhr aus den Kellern der 3 Sauganlagen ver-
gessen wird. Die Anlieferung und der Einbau der hierfür benötigten Rohr-
leitungen und der Druckluftgebläse muss schnellstens erfolgen. Wie Sie in o.a.
Schreiben angeben, sollte die Ausführung noch in dieser Woche geschehen. Das
Herausgeben eines spezialisierten Kostenvorgabes 3-fach für Lieferung und Einbau
wird geboten.

Desgleichen wird um Einleitung eines Nachtragsangebotes für die Umde-
nung der Entluftungsanlage für den Auskleideraum gebeten.

Nach Eingang dieser Angebote wird Ihnen schriftlich Auftrag erteilt.

Der Leiter der Zentralbohleleitung
der Waffen-SS und Polizei Auschwitz
(Stiftung des Bleis)

SS-Sturmabfuhrer (in manuscript) Jäh

Verteiler:
1 Baul. Kl. u. Landw.
2 Regist. KGL BW 30 u. 3a
1 Sachbearb.

In volume II of the Hoss trial a manuscript issued by Jäh Sohn on the 'NATURE OF THE
DEVICES AND INSTALLATIONS' states:

*'In the letter of 6th March 1943, No. 24365, a second document from designated as an
undressing room (Auskleideraum)'*

This letter contains two important edits:

1. The revision of the occupation of hot air produced in the 'Sauganlagen' (forced draught
installations) in prison 1, which is a fact of the revisions.

It is not known whether this system was actually installed. Even if it was, it would not have
been able to operate very long as the motor of the forced draught installations were soon out
of service, one of them having started a fire. These problems resulted in the forced draught
system of Krematorium III never even being installed, while in Krematorium II it was
removed and the rooms converted into accommodation for the Sonderkommando.
Chicago August affected himself one room (see Henryk Tauber's testimony, Part III, Ch. 3)
and the two remaining rooms were, it appears, converted as a bathroom or shower room (with
ten showers, according to Dr Nyzieli).

This document constitutes damning evidence. If, as the revisionists claim, Lecherbauer I
remained a concrete, it would be mad as a madman to wait to 'erect' a place, by definition
cool or cold, destined for the temporary storage of corpses. Clinging to the theory of the
typical revisions without taking account of its evolution, amounts to denying the authenticity
of this letter. 'Preheating' makes sense only for a gas chamber using Zyklon-B, where the
temperature has to be raised to 27°C for the hydrocyanic acid to evaporate.

2. Request for a modification in the UNDESSING ROOM air extraction system.

This is a serious edit and also constitutes additional proof that there were undressing
rooms in Krematorium II and III, fitted with an air extraction system.

Document 36
(PMD file BW 3027, page 7 (manuscript) N° 1372)

(handwritten by Kirschneck) Krems II & III

Correspondence register no. 24365/43/1a/1m Auschwitz, 6.3.1943

Subject: Auschwitz Conc. Camp, Kr II and III POW camp, BW 30 and
BW 30a
Reference: Your letter of 22.2.43 D.IV.Pr.
Enclosure: —

Messe
Topf & Sons
Erfurt

In accordance with your suggestion, the Service agrees that cellar I
should be preheated with air coming from the rooms of the 3 forced draught
installations. The supply and installation of the ducting and the blower
necessary for this purpose must be effected as quickly as possible. As
indicated in your above-mentioned letter, this should be done this week. We
would ask you to send us a detailed quotation for supply and installation in
wire copies.

Similarly we would ask you to send a supplementary quotation for
modifying the air extraction installation of the UNDESSING ROOM

After receipt of these quotations we shall send a written order.

Head of the Auschwitz Waffen-SS and Police
of the Central Construction Management

(initialed by Bischoff)
SS Major
(handwritten) Jäh(ring)

Distribution:
1 Construction Management and Agriculture
2 Records POW camp BW 30 and 30a
1 Official responsible

(Page 10 of BW 304), film No. 1397/19)

Inventory of the equipment of Krematorium II signed by SS Major Bischoff and his clerk, SS Sergeant Thomas

- Krematorium 2. KGL 30. Dachgeschoss
- Hilfs-Schleuse Bodenraum. Motorraum
- Krematorium II POW 30 Roof space
- Prisoners' dormitory. Loft Motor room
- Gehäuse in elektr. Motor 1.5, 3, 5, 4.5 PS /
- Blowers with electric motors of 1.5, 3.5 and
- 4.5 HP.
- Elektr. Motor m. Aufzugvorrichtung, teilweise
- 10 PS /
- Electric motor with lift gear, on loan¹ 10 HP

Documents 85

(Page 22 of 214) (54) Rev. No. 159717)

Inventory of the equipment of Krematorium III signed by SS
Major Bachoff

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Krematorium. | KOL 30a | Dachgeschoss |
| Häftlingsr. | Bodenraum | Maschinenraum/ |
| Krematorium | POW 30a | Roof space |
| Prisoners' room | Loft | Machine room. |
| Elektr. Motoren 2,5, - 2,6, - 5,6, 1,1 kW/ | | |
| Electric motors of 2,5, 2,6, 5,6 and 1,1 kW | | |

**GAS 3000 PEOPLE IN LEICHENKELLER I OF KREMATORIUM II?
IMPOSSIBLE, THE BODIES WOULD HAVE BLOCKED
THE LOWER AIR EXTRACTION ORIFICES**

Document 36:

Recapitulatory table of motor powers

(The figures are expressed in kW/HP and those indicated are those of the original documents.)

(Reply to the argument in a letter from a revisionist)

Following the exchange of letters and telephone calls with a correspondent who doubts the reality of the gas chambers, I have extracted two of his arguments that appear to me valid.

Describing the ventilation system of Leichenkeller I [of the future Krematorium II] as per the cross-section on drawing 933, he pointed out to me that the air entered through the upper orifices, then was extracted through the lower ones, and concluded:

"This arrangement is perfectly suitable if the room is used as a morgue: the air entering cools, becomes denser, and is extracted from the lower part"

He then asked me to imagine:

"the situation in the LK I after the gassing of a large number of people: the corpses are heaped on top of one another, they block most of the air extraction orifices, the room is full of warm toxic gas: how can there be rapid and efficient mechanical ventilation? I would say that it is not possible."

These remarks mean that Leichenkeller I used as a gas chamber had a poorly designed ventilation system and in the case of large-scale gassings (3000 people in 210 m² according to Nyíruti, or 13.3 per square meter), the lower orifices being blocked ventilation would become impossible. [a model visible at the Museum illustrates this «maximum» case, though there are probably no more than one thousand victims depicted]

The figure of 3000 is theoretical and exaggerated, but if we take it as correct, then so is my correspondent's hypothesis and the ventilation is blocked and cannot work.

What would the SS have done in the case of such an «incident»?

They would have proceeded in two stages:

1. Open wide the doors giving basement access through the north yard and those of the undressing room, whose ventilation system working at full power would prevent the basement being contaminated;

Before putting on their gas masks, the SS would have then ordered two to four members of the Sonderkommando to put on masks, open the gas chamber door and drag bodies over into the vestibule until several of the air extraction orifices had been cleared. Then the gas-tight door would have been closed again, the ventilation restarted, and to improve its efficiency all that was required was to open the Zyclon-B introduction covers, but not until that moment. After verifying by means of a gas detector that there was no longer any danger of hydrocyanic acid intoxication outside the gas chamber, operations would have resumed their «normal» course.

2. Once the gas chamber had been emptied, a squad of filters or bricklayers would have fixed at the end of the chamber, in the southeast corner a steel duct of about 20 cm diameter and 2 metres high or built a brick chimney of about the same dimensions connecting with or protecting one of the lower air extraction orifices and enabling it to take in warm contaminated air from above. The time taken for the «repair» would not have been longer than an afternoon. Such an incident would not have interrupted the «operation» of the Krematorium. As the documents we possess at present make no mention of such work we can assume for the moment that the case of the «3000» never occurred, the number of victims from a convoy always being less than this.

The initial ventilation system of Leichenkeller I, which was designed for a basement morgue, is not a «definitive» obstacle to using the room as a gas chamber.

| DESIGNATION
OF ROOMS | Requirements as per
correspondence of
3-12 February 194 | Distribution 1 | | Distribution 2 | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | Krema II | Krema III | Krema II | Krema III |
| AUFZUG/
Lift | " | 7.3/10 | 2 x 15.6/7.1 =
11.2/15.3 | 7.3/10 | 11.2/15.3 |
| L-KELLER 1/
Gas chamber | 2.6/3.5
N° 450 | 3.3/4.5 | 2.5/3.4 | 2.6/3.5 | 2.6/3.5 |
| L-KELLER 2/
Undressing room | 5.5/7.5
N° 550 | 2.6/3.5 | 2.6/3.5 | 2.6/3.5 | 2.5/3.4 |
| SEZIER-, WASCH-, U.
AUFBAHRUNGSRÄUME/
Dissection, washing
and laying out rooms | assumed to be about
LHP
N° 375 | 1.1/1.5 | 1.1/1.5 | 1.1/1.5 | 1.1/1.5 |
| OFENRAUM/
Furnace room | 5.5/7.5
N° 550 | 2.6/3.5 | 2.6/3.5 | 3.3/4.5 | 2.6/3.5 |
| Total
ventilation
motor power | 14.3 kW/19.5 HP | 16.9 kW/23.0 HP | 20.0 kW/27.2 HP | 16.9 kW/23.0 HP | 20.0 kW/27.2 HP |



Cut away model of the Krematorium II gas chamber on display on the first floor of Block 4, the «Holocaustmuseum» section (PMG)

[The model was built BEFORE the discovery of the American aerial photographs]

The staggered arrangement of the 4 openings for pouring Zyclon-B is valid only for Krematorium III, where the dressing room would have been located top right

Translation of inscriptions

There are many faults in this model. Insufficient supporting pillars, only 1 out of 7 being shown. Second Zyclon B introduction column missing. Omission of the 50 cm layer of earth over the roof of the gas chamber. Absence of victims in the vicinity of the cut-out representing the ventilation opening, which avoids suggesting the case of partial or total obstruction by the human mass depicted.

- Arrivée d'air supérieur/Upper air inlet duct
- Désaération basse/Lower air extraction duct
- Pilier de soutien/Supporting pillar
- Clapet obturateur/Cover
- Cheminée d'introduction/Introduction chimney
- Colonne grillagée de versement du Zyclon-B [1 à 4, la 2ème ayant été omise]/Wire grid column for the introduction of Zyclon-B [1 to 4, no 2 having been omitted]

Despite its imperfections, the model, seen from a distance, is a powerful evocation of a mass gassing.

KREMATORIEN IV AND V

Plans, construction and general study

General history of Birkenau Krematorien IV and V,

covering their design, construction,

limited utilization and destruction.

KLG Birkenau Krematorien IV and V
(Bauwerke 30b and 30c)

Unless and until further evidence is discovered, Krematorien IV and V [Document 1] will continue to be the least known of the instruments of extermination at Birkenau.

Until 1980, it was very easy to summarize the little that was known about their history. Krematorium IV entered service on 22nd March 1943 and operated until 7th October 1944, the date of the Sonderkommando revolt, when it was set on fire. Krematorium V, handed over to the camp administration on 4th April 1943, operated until 17th-18th January 1945, the night during which the evacuation of Auschwitz II [Birkenau] began, and the SS dynamited the building a few nights later. Yet key dates, found in the publications of the Auschwitz Museum, did not stop certain people from still believing in 1980 that these installations had worked continuously from 1940 to 1945.

The history of Krematorien IV and V, mirror image buildings, is considered from four aspects: **design, construction, operation and duration of activity** (from which the number of cremations can be estimated). In 1980, the dates given above brought the answer to one aspect of this history: the duration of activity. In addition, it was thought that their operation was perfectly well known. But a certain neophyte researcher could not help noticing that the operation of Krematorien IV and V was illogical to the point of absurdity, which led him to doubt the validity of the events described.

Our knowledge of the history of these two installations now having progressed somewhat, it is possible to be quite certain about the design and construction aspects. The knowledge acquired regarding their construction helps to explain their operation, though certain points remain obscure. As for the duration of activity, all the previous certainty has been swept away, but for lack of original documents it is not possible to be precise, apart from certain limits that can be seen. One might have thought that regarding this aspect the recollections of former prisoners and SS would have been decisive and made up for the lack of documentation, but unfortunately a comparison of such testimonies reveals inconsistencies:

1. Rudolf Hoess, former Camp Commandant, reports that:

"Number III [Kr IV] failed completely after a short time [in 1943] and later ceased to be used altogether. Number IV [Kr V] held its regularly scheduled down, since after its fire had been during for four to five weeks, the ovens or the chimneys burnt out."

In Hoess' opinion, these installations were little used and were soon abandoned, irreparably damaged. However, it would appear that Hoess was in error, for while Kr IV was closed down because its chimneys and/or furnaces were burnt out, Kr V, of exactly the same structure as IV, suffered damage that could be repaired, but could subsequently be operated only sporadically and in moderation.

2. Pery Broad, a former member of the Political Section of the camp, while rightly stating that:

"Even before the construction of all four Krematorien had been completed [Kr IV was still not completed in May 1943], the chimney of Krematorium IV, which had recently entered service, split as the result of overloading and had to be repaired."

goes on to say that

"In the spring [should be summer] of 1944... The four Krematorien were operating at full capacity but very soon as the result of continuous overloading, the furnaces were damaged and only Krematorium II [IV] was still smoking."

Thus Broad states that in, most probably, summer 1944, while Krematorien II, III and V were damaged and shut down, only Krematorium IV valiantly stood up to the continuous overloading, which is completely wrong. The episode he is relating took place in the summer of 1943 (a year earlier), when Kr II had to be shut down with a damaged chimney, IV was completely out of service and V had its furnaces and/or chimneys [had] burnt out. Only Kr III, handed over for use on 25th June 1943, was operating.

3. Dow Paziševic, a former prisoner, in his deposition of 17th October 1963 [CDJC COCLXJ-370], states that having arrived in the Birkenau camp in May 1944 and being incorporated in the

Sonderkommando, he first worked at Bunker V [2], then in Krematorium I [III] or II [III]. He reports that a group of 100 Sonderkommando prisoners were detached and taken to Krematorium III [IV]. Despite a twice repeated error regarding the number of the Krematorium that was operating in May-June 1944, for the open air cremation ditches were behind Krematorium V, not next to Krematorium IV, his deposition confirms that as of that date, only one of Krematorien IV and V was working (and hence that the other was not used). In contradiction to his earlier statements, he goes on to say that so far as he knew, no Krematorium had the slightest breakdown and they always worked perfectly.

4. Filip Müller, another former prisoner, relates in "Tous ans dans une chambre à gaz à Auschwitz" that, probably at the beginning of May 1944, there was a complete overhaul of the four Krematorien in preparation for the "Hungarian actions", noting that six chimneys were checked (one each in Kr II and III and two each in Kr IV and V), four undressing rooms repainted (one in each Krematorium) and eight gas chambers repainted (one each in Kr II and III and three each in Kr IV and V). According to him, the four Krematorien were still working. The repair and maintenance work was carried out by shutting down each of them in turn. Then, as his account continues, he adds that in summer 1944, at the height of the Hungarian extermination, they were using five gas chambers (one each in Kr II and III and three in Kr IV) and the thirty-eight furnaces [implied] (fifteen each in Kr II and III and eight in Kr IV) of Krematorien II, III and IV.

Thus Müller considered Krematorium V to be out of service, while at the same time he described himself as working there in the gas chambers, at the cremation ditches and at the 8-muffle furnace! To say nothing of the fact that he knew that Krematorium IV could not be working because between 500 and 700 Sonderkommando men, including Müller himself, were living there. Despite the fact that Filip Müller's account was recorded too late and included revolutionary errors and embellishments, and perhaps even lies, it is clear from it that one of the twin Krematorien IV and V was not operational in the summer of 1944.

5. Szlana Dragon, another former prisoner, heard by the Examining Judge Jan Sehn on 10th and 11th May 1945, states that he was detailed to Krematorium V in the autumn of 1943 and worked there until May 1944. He states that he was employed on gardening, wood cutting and coke transport [for which Krematorium?] as a member of the **Sonderkommando of Ks V which was out of service throughout this period** and whose furnaces were not reactivated until the arrival of the first transport of Hungarian Jews. He subsequently confirms that in May 1944 Krematorium V was brought back into service, but that at the very beginning of the Hungarian action the furnace of Krematorium IV was used to cremate the victims because that of V was out of order. He then reports that the Jews were burnt in five ditches dug behind Krematorium V.

Dragon's statements concerning Krematorium V are now confirmed, but doubt remains about the use of the Krematorium IV furnace.

6. Henryk Tauber, another former Sonderkommando man, testified before the Polish Judiciary on 25th May 1945 and is the best witness we know as regards the descriptions of the Krematorium. While he describes very precisely the layout and installations of Krematorium IV, where he was sent in mid-April 1943, Tauber says nothing about its breakdowns, its withdrawal from service and its occupation by 500 to 700 Sonderkommando men. When he speaks of the gas chambers of Krematorium IV, it is actually **those of Kr V that he describes**, since he worked very little at IV and a great deal at V. He was an excellent stoker on the three-muffle furnaces [those of Ks II and III], knowing all their ins and outs and all the tricks for extracting the most from them, but he is unable to remember that the doom of the 8-muffle furnaces [of Ks IV and V] opened and closed guttison fashion. In one extraordinary sentence, he reverses the causality having led to the digging of cremation ditches:

"It was realized that the ditches accelerated the corpses better [than the furnaces], which led to the successive shutting down of the Krematorium since the ditches arrested service."

Tauber, an exceptional witness, never departs far from the truth, but knowingly hides certain embarrassing facts through omission and casual metaphor, verbal sins which were perfectly normal in the context of the liberation when a single witness was scarcely able to say anything that could call into doubt the figure of a million victims had been decided upon too rapidly by the Soviet and Polish Communists.

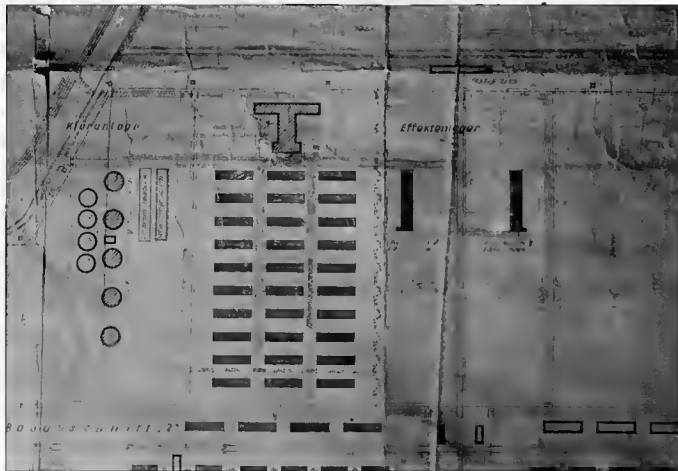
A comparison of these six «recollections» leads to the certainty that Krematorien IV and V cannot have worked continuously. There are areas of silence in the testimonies of former Sonderkommando members, caught

between their honesty and the desire to communicate the horror of their life in the Krematorien, an experience that really cannot be transmitted. In 1945, faced by interrogators who were more interested in knowing the number of victims in the camp than in trying to understand the dehumanizing universe of everyday extermination, they gave up the struggle and submitted a monstrous generality for their individual incommunicable experience. The said what the people facing them wanted to hear, keeping silent about anything that conflicted with their vision of the continuous functioning of the death factories. We now have a number of German documents indicating that this was far from the truth, though it still cannot be irrefutably proved. As for the SS witnesses, having nothing more to lose they generally told something close to the truth, except for such cases as the gross error of dating committed by Pery

The genesis of Krematorien IV and V

The idea of constructing Krematorien IV and V came from a civilian, Kurt Prüfer, chief engineer of Messrs Topf & Sons. While the decision to switch the «projected crematorium» from the main camp to Birkenau, to build two mirror-image versions of it (Kr II and III) and to convert these installations for criminal purposes can be understood in the context of the «Sonderbehandlung» [special treatment] of the Jews, the building of two additional «forest Krematorien» seems quite superfluous. They represent in fact Prüfer's «technical» response to the primitive experimentation of Bunkers 1 and 2.

It was found that the bodies «produced» by Bunkers 1 and 2 could not go on being buried in mass graves for fear of polluting the ground-water with the toxic products produced by their decomposition, as it was decided that they should be cremated. This meant in the first place «emptying» the graves. In preparation for the second phase Prüfer proposed on 19th August 1942 that a two-muffle furnace (carefully delivered «by error» to Auschwitz) should be installed near bunkers 1 and 2 in order to «stream» their production. The SS were not fooled by this «mistaken delivery» and refused the furnace, which was subsequently sent on to its original destination, Mannheim. However, Prüfer was not one to give up easily, and he managed to turn a refusal to spend 8 or 9,000 RM, the price of one double-muffle furnace, into an order worth 27,600 RM, the cost of two eight-muffle furnaces at 13,800 RM each. For the price of about 6 or 7 cremation muffles produced by his competitors, Prüfer was offering 16. While we know that Prüfer directly influenced the Auschwitz Bauleitung in order to ensure that his furnaces, and in particular the eight-muffle ones were installed, we can but surmise about why the order was doubled. The two eight muffle furnaces ordered on 28th August 1942 to equip the future Krematorien IV and V were not ordered for the sake of symmetry but, and it is here that the SS had the last word over Prüfer, because Himmler's headquarters in Berlin had two eight-muffle furnaces of the «Mogilew contract» immediately available [out of a total of three and a half] and these were switched to the Auschwitz camp. The history of this order was recalled by Messrs Topf in a letter written to the Bauleitung on 7th July 1943, probably at the time when final settlement for the Krematorien IV and V furnaces was due, and the SS were trying to obtain a maximum discount on any furnace that was completely out of service after two months and another in very bad condition [Documents 2.3 and 4].



Document 1 [FMO reg. no. 20582]

Program of an overall plan of KGL, Breston, Breston, drawing 2216 dated 20th March 1943, showing the replacement of Kerosolons IV and V. To the south of K1 IV are the three rows of bars of Kanada II and the Zentril Kanma (shaded). To the left of Kanada II on the drawing is sewage treatment plant II which was never completed, though part of a covered service.

J. A. TOPF & SÖHNE

MASCHINENFABRIK · FEUERKUNSTGESCHÄFT · BAUUNTERNEHMEN

An die

Zentral-Behörde des
Teffenw. und Polizei.

Anschlitz / Ost-Oberst.

Bestätigung

ERNST, den 7.7.43.

POSTKASSE 1

RECHNUNG 1

Sehr geehrter Herr

Hr. Schenken

Post-Bez.

Z.L. - Anschlitz.

KOL. - Anschlitz IV und V.

RE 12 1 und 12 2.

In der Anlage übersenden wir Ihnen eine Ablichtung des Auftragschreibens des Reichsführers SS, Berlin, vom 6.12.1941 und den Durchschlag meines Auftragschreibens Reichsführers vom 9.12.1941 zur gefl. Erfüllung.

Wie aus den Auftrags- und Bestätigungs-schreiben ersichtlich ist, sind uns 4 Stück Doppel-Vierstufen-Induktions-Ofen zum Gesamtpreis von RM 55 200.--, demnach je Ofen RM 13 800.--, bestellt worden.

Mit Schreiben vom 10.8.42 des Wirtschaftsverwaltungs-Kommissars, Berlin, wurden wir aufgefordert, 2 Stück Ofen vom Auftrags-Protokoll nach der Zentralbauleitung, Anschlitz, abzuweichen, was von uns durchgeführt worden ist.

Wie Ihnen nicht unbekannt, mussten wir bei diesen Aufträgen den Ofen mit 2 Stufen-Ofen bauen. Diese Anlage bedingte aber mehrfache Reisen und Besprechungen beim Reichsführer in Berlin. Aufgrund dieser Besprechungen hatten

Reichsführer-Gesellschaft 75 101 Postfach-Gesellschaft 100
Telegraphische Nachrichten - Nachrichten - Nachrichten

Document 2 (FMO file BW 3027 page 3)

J. A. TOPF

MASCHINENFABRIK · FEUERKUNSTGESCHÄFT · BAUUNTERNEHMEN

25

Da das Schreiben die Zeit zwischen dem Auftrags-Protokoll und dem Schreiben; auch nach dem vollständigsten Nachschauen der Ofen-Protokolle usw. ange-
stellt werden.

Für diese Verluste hatten wir 6 % der Auftrags-
summe verrechnet und mit eingerechnet.

Mit Ihrem Telegramm vom 10.8.42 wünschten Sie den Verkaufspreis für diesen Achtstufen-Ofen. Hierfür haben wir Ihnen den Preis von RM 13 800.-- an, wobei wir die Verarbeitungs-
kosten für den Ofen, welche Mehrleistung
zufällig auch 6 % - RM 828.-- Kosten nur macht,
mit verrechnet hatten.

Mit Ihrem Schreiben vom 10.11.42 wünschten Sie ein Angebot über denselben Ofen, jedoch ohne Verarbeitungs-
kosten, welchen Preis wir mit Kostenanschlag vom 16.1.42 mit RM 12 972.--
gaben.

Wie Sie uns Versteherden gesehen können, haben wir dem Ofenprotokoll von Heilow um 6 % erhöht, weil wir zwischen die Reichsführer-
und Modelle so an vorliegen hatten und es
nicht annehmen, dass nach dem Reichsführer Acht-
stufen-Ofen ihrerseits zur Anschaffung kom-
men sollte.

Da aber nach Anschlitz nicht 2 "Ofen", wie von uns für dort Veranschlagt, zur Herstellung
kamen, sondern, wie schon eingangs erwähnt,
2 Ofen von dem Auftrags-Protokoll nach Anschlitz
mit zur Aufstellung gekommen sind, so haben wir Ihnen auch den Kostenanschlag-Preis von
Heilow in Höhe von

RM 13 800.-- je Ofen

Document 3 (FMO file BW 3027 page 4)

The design of Krematorien IV and V

The design of Krematorium IV, the test bed, went through three phases, two theoretical and one practical. The first went no further than the drawings, while the second got as far as the beginning of implementation, then was modified in favour of the third which led to an illogical operating sequence for Krematorium IV and consequently its error image, Krematorium V. The period of design, then intensive utilization (lasted from mid-August 1942 until mid-May 1943), when Krematorium IV was abandoned. Krematorium V alone went through two other phases: a fourth in May-June 1944, with a modification in the internal division of the gas chamber section and the digging of cremation ditches to do the work of the closed down furnace; and finally a fifth from autumn 1944 to mid-January 1945, a phase in which the building acquired a «normality» it had never previously known, being used simply as a sanitary installation for cremating the bodies of prisoners who died «naturally».

The first phase is revealed by Bauleitung drawing 1678 of 14th August 1942, entitled «Crematorium installation in the POW camp», an installation to be duplicated and which was connected with the production of Burkers 1 and 2, which was the result of the «special actions». The disastrous health situation in the camp in August 1942 probably explains why the «Krematorium» part of the drawing was completely without the real, considered secondary, was not. The building, measuring 67 m by 12 m, was made up of a «Krematorium» section (comprising the furnace room and its annexes and a separating air lock) and a «morgue» section of 48 m by 12 m, whose floor area of 376 m² was by no means exceptional for Birkenau, the combined area of Leichenkeller 1 and 2 of Krematorium II or III being slightly greater than this. However, the apparent normality of this additional crematorium installation is called into question by a «source (of heat) being shown in the morgue (cool room)», thus indicating the presence of a gas chamber.

The drawing of the roof produced by Messrs Konrad Segatz, dated 14th October 1942, shows the complete crematorium installation, with its «furnace» and «morgue» sections being served by six ventilation chimneys. The «abnormal» indication does not appear on this drawing.

Bauleitung drawing 2036 of 11th January 1943 provides further information and it is to be considered the second phase of the project, the creation of two gas chambers to be used alternately, their «finished products» being evacuated via a corridor serving both of them into temporary storage in the central morgue, then «end use» of these products in the 8-muffle furnaces of the furnace room. This plan was logical and functional. Admittedly there was no undressing room, but it would have been possible to use a system that was employed at Krematorium II in the second half of March 1943: the erection of a wooden undressing hut in the immediate vicinity of the gas chambers. To make the gas chambers operational in this configuration required 4 gas-tight doors and 6 openings for pumping in the Zyklon-B, these last being fitted with gas-tight shutters (i.e. 2 doors and 3 openings per gas chamber). Bauleitung orders 2261/80/17 of 18th January 1943 sent to the Auschwitz DAW workshops (number 109 of 19th February) was for «4 gas-tight doors» for worksite 30b (Krematorium IV). The Bauleitung order of 13th February, for worksites 30b and 30c (Krematorium IV and V) was for «12 gas-tight doors [shutters] 30 x 40 cm», six of these being destined for Krematorium IV.

In the end, however, the SS departed from this linear production line in the third phase, that of practical implementation. The two rooms and the corridor serving them became «a block» of three gas chambers, a space in which the internal divisions were no longer of any significance. To make the entire block gas-tight, only THREE gas-tight doors were now required (Bauleitung order of 31st March 1943 to the DAW workshops, referring to order 2261/80/17 of 18th January 1943 for worksite 30b, mutually for FOUR doors). The number of Zyklon-B introduction openings did not change, but instead of being 5 external and 1 internal they were now all 6 external. In order to work on the same principle of operation as Krematoriums II and III, i.e. all stages taking place inside the building, the big central room now had two functions: morgue and undressing room.

The construction of Krematorien IV and V

The decision to build two additional crematorium installations was taken in the middle of August 1942 and the relevant contracts were drawn up between the 14th and the end of the month. It was all done so rapidly that the contracts were awarded quite informally (Documents 5 and 6).

Nine civilian firms in Upper Silesia participated in the construction of Krematorium IV and V, which were designated during the construction stage as Bauwerke/Worksites 30b and 30c. Each firm was concerned with a particular part of the job, though they helped one another where appropriate. The shells were built by HUTA of Katowice and RIEDEL & SON of Bielitz; the roof was designed by KONRAD SEGATZ of Beuthen and built by INDUSTRIE-BAU AG of Bielitz; the 8-muffle furnaces were built by JOSEF KLUGE of Al-Glewitz under the direction of the manufacturers, TOPP & SONS of Erfurt; the chimneys were built by ROBERT KOEHLER of Myslowitz; the external sewers and drains were installed by KARL FAJCK of Gliwicz and «TRITON» of Katowice.

Work on Krematorium IV began on 23rd September 1942 and the building was officially handed over by the Bauleitung to the Camp Administration on 22nd March 1943, though some further work was carried out from 24th April to 8th May 1943.

Work on Krematorium V started on 15th November 1942 and it was officially handed over on 4th April 1943, but it was not actually operational until 18th April and work was not completed on worksite 30c until 22nd April.

The western parts of both Krematorien were fitted with gas-tight doors and shutters ordered by the Bauleitung from the DAW metal-working and wood-working shops [see Part II, Chapter 8, «Criminal traces», which lists all the «slips» revealing criminal activity made by the Bauleitung and by civilian workers].

The barbed wire fences surrounding the ENTIRE Krematorien IV and V AREA were erected by Huta in April 1943. The work was held up somewhat by unforeseen difficulties [Document 7]. The fence was not electrified until much later, the current being switched on at 1600 hours on 26th June 1944.

The provisional estimate for Krematorium IV amounted to 247,000 RM, but after correction by the Bauleitung or the Inspectorate

for Silesia the cost was reduced to 203,000 RM. The biggest saving was made on the shell, the price per square metre of which was reduced from the initial 50 RM to a final estimate of 35 RM. Huta and Riedel & Son cannot have been very happy about this saving of 40,000 RM made at their expense (Documents 8 and 9). Koehler was paid 60,000 RM for the two chimneys. Messrs Topp & Sons recovered 22,000 RM for the 8-muffle furnace and an air extraction system costing about 8,000 RM, no mention of which is to be found in the remaining documents concerned with the construction of Krematorium IV and V. The guarantee given on the furnace by Messrs Topp & Son was for only TWO MONTHS. Prüfer knew the place and he knew the habits of the SS. Constant overloading together with the fact that the 8-muffle furnaces were built using second rate refractory materials (the only ones available) meant that they were not likely to last long. These two factors influenced the guarantee period and the fears were fully justified (Document 10).

Since we do not have the handover documents for Krematorium V, we do not know the exact cost price of the building, but it must have been very close to that of its twin, Krematorium IV, approximately 200,000 RM.

The incineration capacity of Krematorien IV and V appears in a letter sent by the Auschwitz Bauleitung to their superior in Berlin on 28th June 1943. 768 corpses per unit in 24 hours, or a total of 1,536 per day for the two Krematorien. However, this figure was not based on practical experiences of any kind but was calculated purely on the basis of the theoretical output of the 15 muffles of a Krematorium of type IV/III.

1540 x 8 = 768 corpses per day
15

The practical output of a Krematorium of type IV/V was about 500 corpses per day. However, after the irreparable breakdown of Krematorium IV and the greatly reduced activity of V, these «results» triumphantly announced to Berlin meant absolutely nothing.

The fact is that Krematorien IV and V had scarcely been completed when the SS, like children with their new Christmas toys, started operating them at their absolute limit. Naturally, these overworked «toys» were soon broken. After two months, Krematorium IV was completely out of service. Krematorium V did not enter service until later, but was scarcely any better. The conditions of the two-month guarantee given by Topp were never respected: the furnaces were not operated correctly, being constantly overloaded, and the Sonderkommando deliberately damaged the internal lining with their fire tools. All in all, the SS had great difficulty in trying to get some return on their investment of 400,000 RM, the approximate cost of Krematorium IV and V.

The operation of Krematorien IV and V

Arranged according to the third design stage of the SS, Krematorien IV and V were operated as follows. The «drifts for work» entered the central room and undressed there (undressing room function); naked, they were directed to the block of three gas chambers and once

the gas-tight doors had been closed they were killed by means of the hydrocyanic gas given off by Zyklon-B poured in by an SS man, about thirty minutes later, the doors were opened to ventilate the gas chambers, the Sonderkommando men, wearing gasmasks evacuated the bodies, removing anything that could be of use (hair and gold), and putting the bodies in the central room (morgue function) to await cremation according to the possibilities of the 8-muffle furnace (500 per day).

The floor area of the block of three gas chambers was 240 m² (4800 m²). 2,400 people could therefore be squeezed in at a density of 10 per square metre. To gas them, 6 kg of Zyklon-B would be required (at the rate put forward by Camp Commandant Hoess of 6 kg for 500 m² [1500 people in Kr. I/III]). The SS posing in the Zyklon-B would have to introduce one 1 kg can in each of the six openings in the outside wall, located about 2 metres from the ground. It would take four or five days to cremate these 2,400 bodies.

Documents 5 and 6
PHOTO file BW 30/26, pages 52 and 53

The documents, dated 20th August 1942, by which the Auschwitz Bauleitung externally awarded the contract for building the chimneys of Krematorium IV and V, worksites 30b and 30c to Messrs Robert Koehler of Myslowitz. The offer, with an acceptance date, is not signed by either Robert Koehler or by Bonhoff, the head of the Bauleitung.

Beiz: Robert Koechler
Bankgeschäft
Unter: Mykolowitz, Leo Sohlgerstr. 13
Straß: _____

Bezeichnung: Zentralbauleitung d.
Waffen- u. Polizei-
Auschnitts O/S

Freihändige Vergabe
Befristete Ausschreibung Nr. 64 a

zur
die Kramatorion IV u. V, IV 30b u. 30c im KOL-Auschnitt
(Kramatorion, Sankt)

Ausschreibungsunterlagen und Bezeichnung der folgenden Ausschreibungen (s. b):

1. Die Ausschreibung „Freihändige Vergabe Nr. 64 a“
2. Die „Allgemeinen Vertragsbedingungen“ für die Ausführung von Bauarbeiten — DIN 1961 — (VOB/B)
3. Die „Besonderen Vertragsbedingungen“ nach § 10 der allgemeinen Bestimmungen für die Vergabe von Bauarbeiten — DIN 1960 — (VOB/A)
4. Die „Ergänzenden Vertragsbedingungen“
5. Die „Technischen Vorschriften für Bauarbeiten“ — DIN 1962 bis 1965 — (VOB/C)
6. Die „Erklärungen der Bieter über besondere Verpflichtungen“
7. Die „Vermerkungen zum Leistungsangebot“
8. Das „Leistungsangebot“ mit folgenden Anlagen: **Vorbemerkungen**

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

2. Die Ausführung.

Die Beauftragte 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 und 6 sind durch Unterschrift dem Bieter zugesprochen.

Der Bieter kann vorab in der Zeit von 7⁰⁰ Uhr bis 12⁰⁰ Uhr und von 14⁰⁰ Uhr bis 18⁰⁰ Uhr die Ausschreibungsunterlagen einholen und nach Ermüdung die Beauftragte befragen.

Die Ausschreibungsunterlagen liegen aus: Zentralbauleitung, d. Waffen- u. Polizei-Auschnitt

Die Beauftragte liegt bei KOL-Auschnitt

44 30/26

Das Angebot

Es ist festzustellen, daß das Angebot mit der Aufschrift:

Freihändige Vergabe
Bezeichnung: Zentralbauleitung Nr. 64 a
Angebot auf: Schornsteinbauarbeiten
für: Kramatorion IV u. V Nr. 30b u. 30c

am 30. August 1942 um 11⁰⁰ Uhr eingereicht.

Der bei der Öffnung der Angebote gegenwärtig ist, bei seiner Bezeichnung dazu ausreichen nachzugehen.

Der Auftrag wird durch Zentralbauleitung, d. Waffen- u. Polizei-Auschnitt erteilt, jedoch nur an Bieter, die eine Bezeichnung ihres vollständigen Finanzamtes beifügen, das aus finanziellen Gründen keine weiteren Bedingungen, ihren finanziellen Fähigkeiten zu erfüllen, die Bezeichnung darf nicht älter als ein Jahr sein.

Die Auftragsfrist läuft am 30. September 1942 ab. Bis zu ihrem Ablauf bleibt der Bieter an sein Angebot gebunden.

Für das Angebot sind nur die übergebenen Unterlagen zu verwenden. Sobald dem Bieter der Auftrag auf sein Angebot mitgeteilt worden ist, sind Zeichnungen oder Zeichnungen an die beigefügten Zeichnungen anzugeben.

Veränderungen in der Zeichnungen der Bieter müssen durch seine Unterschrift bestätigt sein. Angebote, die nicht die Stellen ausweisen, werden nicht berücksichtigt.

Bezeichnung:

Umsatz:

Mykolowitz, den 20. August 1942
(Ort, Name)
Der Leiter der Zentralbauleitung
der Waffen- u. Polizei-Auschnitt

(Unterschrift)

(Unterschrift)

Heft 1/1941

44 30/26

The difficulties

Although the operating sequence looks simple enough, it had become arduous and ridiculous. It was trivial to have the victims going from the central room to the gas chambers then being brought back, thus destroying the linear logic of the ritual design. It was ridiculous to have an SS man in a gasmask balancing on his short ladder with a 1 kg can of Zyklon B in his left hand while he opened and then closed the 30 by 40 cm shutter through which he introduced the pellets with his right hand. This performance was to be repeated six times. If he was not capable of such a balancing act, the SS had to climb his little ladder three times for each opening: first to open the shutter (up and down), second to introduce the Zyklon-B (up and down) and third to close the shutter (up and down). Six openings, eighteen times up and down the ladder wearing a gasmask. A simulation shows that this exercise would take 10 minutes. A stepwise installed beneath each opening would have avoided all this performance.

The very first gasings showed that ventilation of the premises was a serious problem. The arrangement of the doors on drawing 2016, which had not taken account of the prevailing north wind, meant that ventilation was slow and inefficient, with the attendant risk of contaminating the rooms going into the vestibule if there should be a sudden gust of wind from the west (Photos 15 and 16 is aware).

At the beginning of April, fissures «Russe» in the German began to appear in the 8-muffle furnace of Krematorium IV, WHICH HAD BEEN WORKING FOR TEN DAYS, just as Krematorium V was being handed over to the camp administration. The Bauleitung informed Topf.

Summarizing, after Krematorium IV had been in operation for one or two weeks, representing two or three gasings, the Bauleitung found that:

1. The furnace was starting to crack;
2. The natural ventilation was badly oriented and dangerous;
3. Introducing the poison resembled a circus act.

The following action was taken to deal with these problems:

1. Topf foreman Willi Koch filled in the «Russe», but nothing was done to rectify their cause. If the Bauleitung and Topf had been willing and able to face up to the situation, they would have demolished the furnaces and rebuilt them using better quality materials, but this was an unrealistic solution with the war nearing its fifth year.
2. A door was made in the external wall of the corridor serving the gas chambers (facing north in Krematorium IV and south in Kr V). By keeping the door between the corridor and the vestibule closed after gassing, a north/south draught was created between the new door and that of one of the gas chambers (to the south in Krematorium IV and to the north in Kr V). This made the natural ventilation more efficient and removed the danger of accidental poisoning. Furthermore, in order to make the ventilation more rapid and even safer, at a meeting on 18th May 1943 there was

talk of installing an air extraction system capable of rendering the toxic atmosphere of the gas chambers harmless in less than five minutes.

3. The Zyklon-B introduction openings were enlarged from 30 x 40 cm to 40 x 50 cm and the system for opening and closing them was simplified. The method of introduction remained the same, however, the camp authorities considering that a little physical exercise would do the medical orderlies responsible for gassing a world of good.

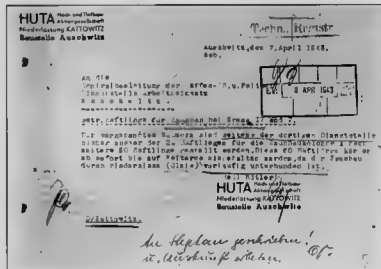
The victims were not consulted however. They were not asked whether death was very rapid (as initially planned) or not. Through not modifying the method of introducing the poison gas into Krematorium IV and V, the SS made the agony of the «unfit for work» longer and more painful, with internal peric (i.e. breakdown/struggle for life) even more savage and desperate than in the gas chambers of the Krematorium II and III.

In May 1943, the SS had to face up to the evidence. More «Russe» had appeared and the 8-muffle furnace of Krematorium IV had become unusable. After inspecting the damage on 17th or 18th May, Topf engineer Prüfer confirmed the unpalatable truth. The Topf guarantees were to expire in a few days, on 22nd and Prüfer was unable to accept that his firm should bear the cost of constantly repairing a furnace operated under such conditions. Unfortunately, we have no record of Prüfer's meeting with the Bauleitung on 18th May, which must have been difficult for both parties, each of them being partly, but not fully, responsible, and each having arguments in their favour. The true cause of the «Russe» was the poor quality of the refractory materials used, but everybody knew that it had not been possible to get anything better. Two hundred thousand Reichsmark had been thrown out of the window thanks to Prüfer's sales talk, and for a painful return: 5,000 to 10,000 corpses cremated at the excessively high unit cost of between 20 and 40 RM. Krematorium IV had also brought something in the form of cash, jewelry, wedding rings, watches, platinum or gold teeth, clothing, etc., but all in all a poor return on the expenditure incurred. All concerned must have thought of this, but without being able to mention such a «corrid» calculation.

Both sides tried to be positive and save what could still be saved. The idea of the Krematorium IV furnace was over, but the gas chambers could still be used. The furnaces of Krematorium II were intact, but its chimney lining was damaged and the installation was shut down awaiting repairs. Krematorium III was still far from finished. The entire cremation capacity of Barkan for the moment depended on Krematorium V, a fragile instrument with the same basic faults as Krematorium IV. By using it in moderation, it was possible to make Krematorium V tide over the period until Krematorium II was repaired and III completed. Once the cremation capacity of the camp was restored, the troubles would be over. While everything depended on Krematorium V, its efficiency had to be improved, and in particular that of the gas chambers. Prüfer, always with an eye to business, offered Binschoff an air extraction system with a capacity of 8,000 m³ an hour, enough to «clean» the noxious air of the gas chambers in less than 5 minutes. The gas chambers of Krematorium IV still being operational, they could benefit from a similar system. A Topf letter of 9th June 1943 [Documents 11 and 12], evaluated the cost of this project, the responsibility of Prüfer's assistant, Schulz [i.e. at a modest 2,510 RM.

[The author would point out that NOTHING in this letter indicates that the air extraction systems proposed for Krematorium IV and V were for the gas chambers, and they could on the face of it be for the furnace rooms. However, the chronology of the evolution of the two Krematoriums and the problems inherent in their gas chambers support the thesis that the extraction systems were for them. Any attempt to deny that Krematorium II was shut down for repair, Kr IV permanently out of service and Kr V subsequently mothballed comes up against the problem of the coke consumption for the four Krematoriums, which is known up to the end of October 1943 and which shows that the quantities delivered covered the requirements of 14 muffles only.]

The testimonies we have are very evasive about the state of the furnace and about what happened to Krematorium V between the middle of 1943 and the beginning of May 1944. Handed over to the camp administration on 4th April 1943 and operational as from 18th April, Krematorium V was no doubt the only one in service from mid-May until 25th June, the date on which Krematorium III was handed over. Krematorium II was not back in service until 12th July 1943. As Krematorium V had to handle all cremations for a period of almost two months, its furnace must have suffered accordingly, with the appearance of «Russe», the same causes producing the same effects. However, as it was used more moderately it was still semi-operational when it was mothballed at the end of June or beginning of July 1943.



Document 7 (PMD for BW 3030, page 5)

(This letter to the Auschwitz Bauleitung, dated 7th April 1943, concerning the action of the barrel was forced upon Krematorium IV and V. In this letter [this same date for the moment they cannot employ the additional 80 prisoners who were to join the 20 already working on the job, because the work has had to be interrupted because of obstacles (red)].

Documents 8 and 9
[PMO file BA 304],
pages 11 and 32]

Provisional estimate for the
construction of Kreschaten IV,
drawn up by the civilian employee
Tuchmann on 10th March 1944 and
signed by the then head of the
Austrian Building 23 Liaison
Bureau. This estimate was
submitted to the Construction
Inspectorate for Bosnia and
provisionally approved
on 26th May 1944.

Kostenveranschlagung
zum Ausbau d. drei Gefangenenlager d. n. n. in Ausb. Nr. 0/5

Errichtung von einer Kreschaten

A. Erwerb d. Grundstücke

Das Gefangenenlager wird auf
eigenem Gelände errichtet

A. Erwerb d. Grundstücke

F. Errichtung d. Baugrundstückes

Für Planierungsarbeiten an einem
900 qm Bodenfläche, Entfernung v.
Klinken- u. einschl. Entfernung
für 1 qm 1,20 v. b. n.

B. Errichtung d. Baugrundstückes

C. Baukosten u. Materialkosten

I. Material

Nr. 10. 1. Freigelegene Fläche: 629,44
Grundfläche: (7,60 x 12,00) + (4,50 x 4,00) = 629,44
12,00 x 12,00 = 2520,00
Seitenmaße: 4,80 m 2520,00
Umbaukosten: 6,4 x 4,00 = 25,60
255,70 x 2,00 = 511,40
639,44

Kosten für 1 qm: 314,54 314,54 10078,90

Kosten für 1 qm: 314,54 314,54 10078,90

Kosten für 2 Gefangenenlager
2 Gefangenenlager, Name für Verbringung
Klinken u. einschl. Entfernung
1 qm. 1. Klinken- u. einschl. Entfernung
1 qm. 1. Klinken- u. einschl. Entfernung
1 qm. 1. Klinken- u. einschl. Entfernung

II. Ausgabenanlagen

wird ein Besondere- u. Bauvertrag gestellt:

I. Baukosten

II. Ausgabenanlagen

C. Baukosten u. Ausgabenanlagen

D. Hauptingehalten

5 v. n. aus den Karten
von Abschnitt B - Nr. 1,000,-
von Abt. C - Nr. 2,500,- 492079,90
5 v. n. von Nr. 23,500,- 9657,89
D. Hauptingehalten u. nur Aufwendungen Nr. 23,500,-
980,00

Hauptzusammenstellung

A. Erwerb d. Grundstücke Nr. 1,000,-
B. Errichtung d. Baugrundstückes Nr. 1,000,-
C. Baukosten u. Ausgabenanlagen 192079,90 Nr. 23,500,-
D. Hauptingehalten 2440,12 Nr. 23,500,-
Gesamtsumme Nr. 2440,12
203000,-

Aufgestellt:

Auswirts, den 10. III. 1944
Teil. / n.

Der Leiter der Zentralbauleitung
der Wehrmacht und Polizei, Auswirts

J. J. J.

Vorgeprüft!

Auswirts, den 26. 5. 44

Inspektor

der Wehrmacht u. Polizei, Auswirts

Stuy, Okey.

-Oberbauleiter (P) 1/10

II. Oberbauleiter

Translation:

[Hand written additions]

Deals with Jähling (initialed) Kirschneck
[in violet pencil] Kirschneck and Jausch

Krema file

Copy!

Check contract

Referat!

Rubber stamp showing the date the letter was received by the Auschwitz Bauleitung, 12th April 1943, and the correspondence register number 26936/43, initiated by Kirschneck and Jähling

To the
Waffen SS and Police
Central Contruction Management

Auschwitz/East Upper Silesia

Subject: Your ref. Our Division D IV

Krematorium IV POW camp 30b
Your letter of 3/4/43
Corres. reg.
26419/43/13/Lm

Pfr [Pfrer]

In reply to your letter mentioned above, we would inform you that we have engaged our site foreman, Herr Koch, to repair the flues that have apparently recently appeared in the 5th flue furnace in Krematorium IV. At the same time we have noted the agreement made between your Head of Construction, SS Major Buchelt and our chief engineer, Herr Pfrer, according to which we are to make good any defects in the cremation furnace built by us that should appear within 2 months after its coming into service, at no cost to you. This is naturally subject to the precondition that any defects that may appear are the result of faulty construction and not, for example, caused by overheating the furnace or damaging the internal lining with fire wood, etc.

As already mentioned, we have instructed our site foreman Koch to repair the damage that has occurred, which has no doubt have done in the meantime.

Ever at your service, please be sure of our best wishes.

Heil Hitler!
[Signed] J A Topf & Söhne

Enclosures:
2 further copies of this letter

beschriftet Gefolgt von Kirschneck am 12. April 1943
Topf
J. A. TOPF & SÖHNE
MASCHINENFABRIK UND FEUERUNSTECHNISCHE BAUUNTERNEHMUNG

Abteilung Maschinenbau

Topf

Erstempfang: 12. APR. 1943 26936/43

An die
Zentral-Fachleitung der Waffen-SS und Polizei,
Auschwitz / Ost-Oberschl.

VERSAND
Kl. Krematorium IV KGL 30 b,
Ihr Schreiben vom 24.4.43

UNSER ERWIDRUNG D IV
Betreff: 26419/43/13/Lm.

In Erwidlung Ihres oben anverfügten Schreibens teilen wir Ihnen mit, dass wir unseren Vorgesetzten, Herrn Koch, aufgetragen haben, die namentlich in letzter Zeit entstandenen Risse an den feuerfesten Öfen im Krematorium IV zu beseitigen. Gleichzeitig haben wir von der zwischen Ihnen und unserem Herrn Bauleiter Starobinski, Herrn Buchelt und unserem Herrn Oberingenieur Fr. Pfrer getroffenen Vereinbarung Kenntnis, nach welcher wir die aufgetretenen Mängel an den von uns errichteten Einrichtungen, die innerhalb eines bestimmten nach Inbetriebnahme der Öfen ausströmenden Kohlenstaubs Sie beseitigen. Hierbei ist selbsterhellend, dass die durch Überhitzung der Öfen bzw. durch Schäden der inneren Auskleidung durch die Schmelzgeräte usw.

Wie bereits eingangs erwähnt, haben wir unseren Herr Koch beauftragt, die jetzt eingetretenen Schäden zu beseitigen, was in der Zwischenzeit wohl erfolgt sein dürfte. Falls Sie noch weitere Angaben wünschen, so werden wir uns bemühen, Ihnen diese zu liefern.

Heil Hitler!

Anlage:
2 weitere ...

The Hungarian extermination

In preparation for the Hungarian extermination, the SS had Krematorien II and III overhauled at the end of April 1944. Overwhelmed by the influx of transports, they tried at the beginning of June to bring Krematorien IV and V back into service. They failed with Krematorium IV, but were partly successful with Krematorium V. Even though its furnace worked as it had done earlier, it was not able to rapidly cremate the batches of victims turned out by its gas chambers. It was SS Master Sergeant Otto Moll who took the initiative of digging five small open-air cremation ditches behind Krematorium V, between its north wall and drainage ditch L1. The uncremated bodies had to be smashed to powder, crushed with sledgehammers on a steel plate, another of Moll's inventions (David Olitz portrayed this practice in a sketch. See document 12a).

Homocidal gasings at Krematorium V, its furnace extinguished, now proceeded as follows (fourth phase): the sunlit (or work) entered via the vestibule and undressed in the central room; they were then pushed into the block of three, inner four) gas chambers and killed there, their bodies were dragged by the Sonderkommando to the cremation ditches and burnt in the open air. In good weather, in the summer of 1944, the central undressing room was not used and the victims were made to undress in the open air before being introduced directly into the gas chambers.

Sometimes there was only a small number of victims and Zyclon-B was less plentiful than usual. To deal with this kind of situation, the corridor serving the two westernmost rooms was divided in two, in the proportion 1:2, thus forming a fourth small gas chamber of 13 m² (26 m³), in which small groups could be 'cremated' with a minimum of Zyclon-B (one 200 gramme can).

At the end of May 1944, most of the Sonderkommando men were transferred from block I of the «Men's Camp» (B II) to Krematorium IV, which was converted into a dormitory for them. According to Dmiron, there were 700 of them, which would mean that ALL of Krematorium IV except for the furnace room and its annexes was occupied by the prisoners' beds and no homocidal gasings would have been possible there as from this date.

The Polish Resistance photographs

Four photographs were taken in the summer of 1944 during the gassing and cremation of a group of Jews at Krematorium V. The camera was introduced clandestinely by a member of the camp resistance movement, David Szmielewski. The pictures were taken by an unknown member of the Sonderkommando, who had to work under extremely difficult conditions in places where he could not be seen by or was not clearly visible to the SS guards in the three watchtowers near the north wall of the Krematorium: first in the northern gas chamber, then in the Birch Wood to the east of the building, the camera being hidden in his hand while he was out in the open. The two most dangerous moments in this episode were the transfer of the camera from David Szmielewski (on the roof of the gas chambers) to the Sonderkommando man (on the ground) and the reverse process when the pictures had been taken. Only three of these photographs are extant (see the study of them in annex).

Verkauf Hermann K.

J.A. TOPF & SOHNE

CHENOTENBAU

GEGR. 1874

ZWEITAUSFERTIGUNG

AM die
Zentral-Verwaltung der
Waffen-SS und Polizei,
Anschluß / Ost-Oberzahl.

STRIKKE MIT ZITIEREN

Krematorium IV und V,
Entlüftung-Anlage.

Verfahren nach Dr. K.

Wir so men Bezug auf die Besprechung zwischen
Ihren Herrn Stabschef und unserem Herrn
Oberingenieur Prüfer am 18. Mai d.J.
und danken für den uns erteilten Auftrag auf

2 Entlüftung-Anlagen für Krematorium IV und V.

Den Auftrag haben wir zum Gesamtpreise von

RM 2 516.--

nachdem unserer Ihnen bekannten Allgem.-im
Lieferungsbedingungen A. angenommen. Den Lie-
ferungsumfang bitten wir aus unserem beilie-
genden Kostenschlag zu entnehmen.

Ferner führen wir eine Zeichnung D 59 62a
in doppelter Ausfertigung bei, aus welcher Sie
die Ausführung der genannten Entlüftungsanlage

- h.o. -

19

und die Anordnung der von uns zu liefern-
den Luft-Abzugsleitung, sowie des Gebläses
und die Druckverteilung versehen können.

Wir bitten um kurze Beantwortung, dass Sie
mit unseren Ausführungen einverstanden sind.
Sofort nach Eingang Ihrer Rückmeldung werden
wir die noch notwendigen Teile in unserer
Werkstatt fertig stellen.

Heil Hitler!

Anlagen:

2 Durchschläge dicke Schweißens,
1 Kostenrechnung drucklos,
1 Zeichnung D 59 62a doppelt.

in d. Ausführung am 18.5.44 an die Dr. K. geliefert

Letter of 10 June 1947 from Hermann Topf & Sohn to the Auschwitz-Birkenau following the meeting of 18th May concerning 2 air extraction installations for Krematorium IV and V to be supplied at a total cost of 2,516 RM. Two copies of Topf drawing D 59 62a were enclosed, showing the construction of the two back air extraction ducts and the arrangement of the suction duct, blower and pressure duct to be supplied by Topf. The closure rooms to be used were of 3.5 m² and the systems would have had a capacity of 1,000 m³ per hour. The installations were never fitted on either of the two Krematorien.

The Sonderkommando revolt

This revolt was triggered on 7th October 1944 and resulted in the burning of Krematorium IV, where most of the Sonderkommando men were housed, and the deaths of three SS and two to three hundred prisoners. By 9th October, only 212 Sonderkommando men remained alive. Several accounts of the uprising have been written, but they are not reproduced here as it is difficult to assess their veracity. In the author's opinion, this rebellion was an act of despair on the part of prisoners who were overcrowded and undernourished, who had seen too much and felt that their end was near.

The demolition of Krematorium IV

Demolition began after the fire. The building was already out of service as a crematorium and could no longer be used even as a dormitory. The metal parts of its furnace were removed and stored in the Auschwitz 'Bathhouse'. After demolition there remained only the bare concrete foundation slab [Document 13]

The final phase of operation and the destruction of Krematorium V

After Himmler gave the order to cease gasings and to demolish Krematoria II and III, Krematorium V continued to be used to cremate the bodies of prisoners who died of exhaustion, hunger or disease. This addressing room/morgue was divided up to create new rooms to house, for example, Doctor Mengele's racial research team from Krematorium II. In one of the two now unused gas chambers, benches were installed for breeding rabbits. The 30 or so remaining members of the Sonderkommando, who looked after the now 'normal' operation of Krematorium V, no longer had the pickings from the Hungarian transports to rely on and had to improve their rations as best they could. They were housed in the former coal store next to the doctor's room, which was converted into a kitchen.

On 17th January 1945, the SS burnt their last archives. Virtually all the files from the Political Section of the camp were destroyed, but those of the Banishment were forgotten in this final attempt to make it impossible to calculate the total number of deaths in the camp. In the night, taking advantage of the provisional abandonment of Krematorium V by the SS, the 30 Sonderkommando men fled towards the main entrance of the Birkenau camp and disappeared into the crowd of prisoners massed before the gates. Evacuation of the camp began at dawn on 18th January, over snow-covered roads and in arctic conditions.

The SS had been over-hasty in leaving the camp, for the Russians did not actually reach Oswiecim until 27th January. There was therefore time for small groups to return to the camp to finish off destroying the 'murder napkins'.

After having blown up the remaining shells of Krematoria II and III about midday on 26th January, the SS dismantled Krematorium V, which exploded about one o'clock in the morning of 26th January [according to Damián Czech's 'Calendar of events']. A former

prisoner, Dr Otto Wollken, relates that:

'One night, the silence was broken by a great explosion... In the pale light of the moon I saw an enormous cloud of dust in the place where crematorium number five had stood the previous day.'

This witness gives no date for this episode, but according to the chronology of his account it would have been in the night of 21st/22nd January 1945.

A survey of the location of the explosions carried out by the author [Document 14] shows that eight identical charges were used in the central and western parts of the building, arranged in a regular and symmetrical pattern, and a larger fourth charge, or several charges, was placed in the 8-muffle furnace. All were detonated simultaneously.

Krematorium V after the Liberation of the camp: clearance and partial reconstruction

On their arrival, all the Soviets found Krematorium IV was a concrete slab and of Krematorium V a shapeless heap of rubble [Photo 19 in annex]. They immediately began to clear the rubble, for they hoped to find the 8-muffle furnace still intact, all the furnaces of Krematoria I, II, III and IV having been dismantled. They were disappointed. The explosives that the SS had placed inside the muffles had virtually pulverised the furnace. Nothing remained of its eastern part and only a small section of the northwest part retained any form [Photo 20 in annex]. The rubble was heaped up around Krematorium V. A gas-tight door with no peephole was discovered, scarcely damaged [Photo 26 in annex]. Of the three shutters for Zyklon-B introduction openings still existing, it is not known whether they were from the 'Bathhouse' and therefore came from Krematorium IV, or whether they were found in the ruins of Krematorium V. Once the ruins were cleared, the various items were stored separately with a view to making a reconstruction [Photo 21 in annex]. In the author's opinion, this would have been possible only if a Topf drawing of the 8-muffle furnace was available, and no such drawing has ever been found. By removing the twisted metal components of the furnace items of Krematorium V and replacing them with the intact ones taken from K I V and III is the 'Bathhouse', it would have been possible to reconstitute the furnace perfectly, provided the drawing was available. With no drawing it could not have been accurately reproduced. Reconstruction of the rest of the building would have presented no problem, for its external aspect and internal arrangement were clearly shown on Bauleitung drawing 2036. What is more, the type of gas-tight doors and Zyklon-B introduction shutters was known. The walls were in fact rebuilt up to a height of about one metre, but reconstruction was then halted for some unknown reason.

This study of Krematoria IV and V is necessarily of a somewhat general nature. It is not possible to make an in-depth and detailed study like that of Krematoria I and III for the simple reason that very few German documents concerning Krematoria IV and V are available. This lack of documentation is no doubt a further reflection of the fact that K I IV and V were used very little, against the constant use of II and III.

Krematorium IV served as a test bed, and as a result of this head experiment Krematorium V was virtually deprived of its furnace.

Krematorium V did play an important supporting role during a critical period in 1943, being the only installation used for the gassing and cremation of the unfit for work over a period of two months, a relatively light task that it nevertheless only just managed and which ceased as soon as Krematorium III was completed and II was brought back into service. It was kept in reserve, and its gas chamber section was reactivated during the Hungarian extermination, and used in association with open-air cremation ditches which made up for the inadequate output of its furnace, which remained unused. As from the end of November 1944, Krematorium V handled alone all the 'normal' cremation of the camp.

There remain several unknowns concerning Krematoria IV and V. The lack of a Topf drawing of the 8-muffle furnace means that we do not know its internal arrangement; whether there was a space between the two 4-muffle half-furnaces, the precise location of its lining hearths (on the same faces as the muffle doors or in the possible space between the two furnaces which would then form a 'Heizgrube'). In the gas chambers at the western part, the gas-tight door found in Krematorium V has no peephole, whereas Sonderkommando members

describe the doors as having them. The form of the grids inside the Zyklon-B introduction openings through which the gas was diffused and the way in which the pellets were recovered for re-use have never been described.

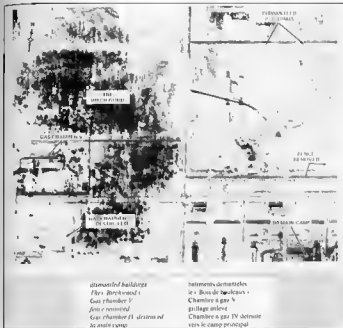
The number of victims killed in Krematoria IV and V depends on the length of time the Krematoria were used, and our knowledge is very uncertain here. What is more, it is absolutely impossible to calculate the cremation capacity of the ditches dug near K I V. On the basis of the data available, it can be said that Krematorium IV [Document 15] could theoretically have 'created' 20,000 people in 40 to 50 days, a figure to be reduced in view of the repairs carried out before its final breakdown and which is likely to be closer to 6,000. In its initial period of operation in 1943, Krematorium V could have eliminated 30,000 in 2 months, but the true figure is probably no more than 15,000. In the summer of 1944, the number of victims cremated in the ditches was probably 50,000 or more. The great majority of deaths occurred then, the number 'created' in 1943 being much smaller. The total number of victims for Krematoria IV and V in 1943 was probably about 20,000. The number of victims for Krematorium V in the summer of 1944 cannot be calculated and is certainly underestimated.

Completed on 28th June 1988



Document 12b

Sketch by Dr. Olsner 1945



Document 13

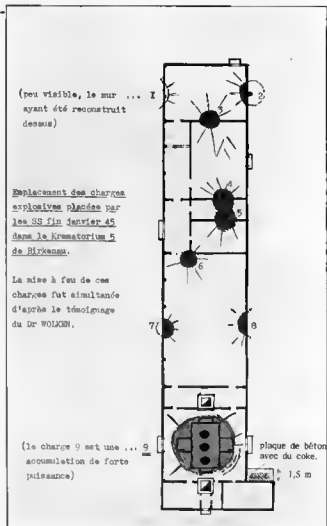
Fragment of an aerial photograph of Krematorium IV and V (left taken on 21st December 1944). To the north and west of Krematorium V a white patch composed with the grey of the ground, is the emplacement of the cremation ditches, filled in so as to this date, dug almost side by side. The 8-muffle furnace of Krematorium V was not in operation that day and the only rooms occupied (rooms situated on the roof) were the coal store (part used as accommodation for the remaining 30 members of the Sonderkommando) and the doctor's room (now a kitchen). Below this the concrete foundation slab of the demolished Krematorium IV is completely covered by snow. The location of a watchtower to the north of Krematorium V is unfortunately covered by the inscription «Gas chamber V».

Translation of the inscriptions:

- (peu visible...)
Scarcely visible, the wall having been rebuilt over it)
- Emplacement des charges...
Location of the explosive charges laid in Birkenau Krematorium V by the SS at the end of January 1945.
- La mise à feu...
All these charges were detonated simultaneously according to the testimony of Dr Wolke
- (la charge 9...)
(charge 9 was a very large one)
- plaque de béton...
concrete slab with coke

Document 14

Survey by the author of the traces left by the explosions that demolished Krematorium V



Bauleitung drawing 1678 of 14.8.42

The first drawing 1678(p) [Polish] is from *PMO file BW 30b-30r/22*, neg. no. 20946/6.

The second drawing 1678(r) [Russian] is from the «October Revolution» Central State Archives.

Einäscherungsanlage im KGL/Cremation installation in the POW camp

Maßstab/Scale 1:100

Drawn by prisoner 538 on 14th August 1942.

checked by SS Second Lieutenant Dejaco and approved by SS Captain Bischoff on 15th September 1942

Drawing 1478, the first one of the future Krematorium IV, two copies of which were to be built (the second being Krematorium V), was drawn in haste in order to try to deal with the catastrophic situation in which the camp found itself in August 1942. A typhus epidemic was raging and Bunkers I and 2 were regularly burning out batches of gassed bodies to be buried in the Birch Wood, a procedure that constituted a major health hazard at the height of summer. The urgency with which the drawing was produced can be seen in its unfinished appearance and by comparing the date on which it was checked and approved (15th September 1942) with the date on which the chunneys were ordered (20th August 1942), the former being much later than the latter.

The fact is that the building was merely the frame in which an eight-muffle cremation furnace was to be housed, the drawings of this already having been supplied by Prüfer, the chief engineer of Messrs Topf. The title «Einäscherungsanlage/Cremation installation», rather than «Krematorium» indicates that it was the act of incineration that had priority and that the planned facility would be of more summary design than Krematorien II and III.

Despite its apparent innocence as a sanitary instrument, there is a criminal element, linked with homicidal gasings, in the drawing. The essential parts of a crematorium are its furnace(s) and its morgue(s). Other ancillary rooms may go to complete this basic unit, such as coke store, laying out room, dissecting room and various others. In the arrangement of the premises, the only two rooms that are to be found in the immediate vicinity of the furnace room are those containing what is essential for its operation: coke from the coke store and corpses from the morgue. On drawing 1678, the coke store is shown, but the morgue is not. The only room big enough to serve this purpose is the uncompleted room on the left, beyond the air lock. The complementary drawing 2036, despite the absence of a specific label, makes it clear that this is the only room that could fulfil this function. This room, a morgue by virtue of its position, has by definition to be cool, but the SS planned it to be fitted with a stove [symbol 8], which would be absurd. The arrangement of the premises in a homicidal crematorium (one with a gas chamber) was in accordance with an inescapable logical sequence. For example, in the new crematorium at Dachau, there follow the undressing room, the gas chamber (labelled «Brausebad»/Shower bath), the morgue and the furnace room. In Auschwitz/Krematorium I, the room that served first as a morgue and then as a gas chamber was next to the furnace room. The most noticeable difference between the two types of use is the air temperature: a morgue needs to be cool or cold, while a gas chamber using Zyklon-B needs to be heated to 26° or 27° C to facilitate the diffusion of the hydrocyanic gas. The presence of a stove in the uncompleted room of drawing 1678 is a formal indication that it was used for gassing. The weakness of this criminal trace is that it stands alone. Its strength is that it exists: this symbol of a stove cannot be rubbed out or forgotten.

Drawing 1478 is connected with Bunkers I and 2. Instead of locating furnaces at the exits of their gas chambers as Prüfer had suggested in order to solve the problem of the mass graves, the SS preferred to bring the two functions (gassing and cremating) under the same roof. As evidence of this «affiliation», the method of introducing Zyklon-B into the gas chambers in Krematorien IV and V was directly inspired by that used in Bunkers I and 2, the pellets containing the poison being poured through openings covered by wooden shutters, set high in the walls of the gas chamber and accessible only by means of a ladder.

Since Bunkers I and 2 were the only gas chambers in continuous operation in July-August 1942, the SS were willing to abandon them only in favour of two installations that could perform the same «work» much «better» cremation installations IV and V, subsequently known as Krematorien IV and V.

Translation of inscriptions (from top to bottom and left to right):

Giebelansicht/Gable end [east elevation of Krematorium IV]

Ansicht/Elevation [north elevation of Krematorium IV]

Erdgesch.-Grundriss/Ground floor plan

- Entlüftung/Air extraction
- Brücke/Bridge
- Zwischen Schornstein und Innenwand Dehnungsring vorsetzen/Allow for expansion joint between chimney and internal wall
- Schenke u. Geräte/An lock and tools
- Schenke/An lock
- Verbrennungsraum/Cremation room [furnace room]
- Generat./Firebox
- Achtmuffel-Einäscherungsanlage/Eight-muffle cremation furnace
- Siehe bei Zeichnung/See the drawing concerned
- Entlüftung/Air extraction
- Außenbalkenraum/Prisoners' rest room
- W.F./Wind break
- Eingang/Entrance
- WC
- Kohlen/Coal [in fact coke] store

Schnitt A-B/Section A-B

- Entlüftung/Air extraction
- Schornsteinrohr/Chimney height
- Nagelbinder/Nailed truss
- Einäscherungsanlage/Cremation furnace
- OK Gelände/Ground level
- Schornsteinfundament/Chimney foundations

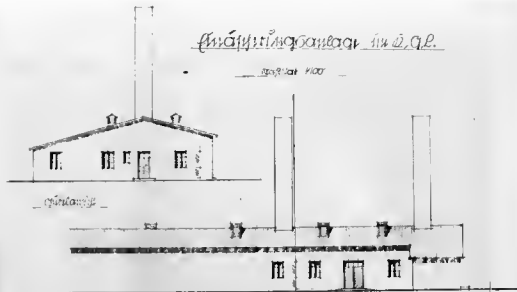
Ansicht/Elevation [north elevation of Krematorium IV]

Fundamentplan/Plan of foundations

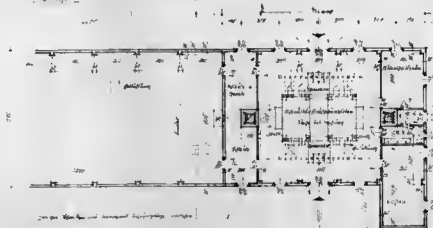
- Schornsteinfundament/Chimney foundations
- Ofenfundament/Furnace foundations
- Siehe bei Zeichnung/See the drawing concerned

Fräpplingenbau in d. G.L.

Maßstab 1:100



Tür



Die hier eingezeichneten Räume sind demnach zu verstehen

1. Boden, 2. Giebel, 3.

Konrad Segnitz drawing 1361 of 14/10/42

[PMO file 30b-30c/23, neg. no. 20946/7]

Einäscherungsanlage im KGL Auschwitz/
Cremation installation in Auschwitz POW camp

Mas. 1:100 u 1:20/Scale 1:100 and 1:20

Drawn on 14th October 1942 by the building firm Konrad Segnitz of Beuthen for the Auschwitz Bauleitung.
Attached to it were two timber lists (Holzliste 659 and 660) detailing materials required for the roof frames and covering.

This drawing was received by the Bauleitung on 7th December 1942.

Translation of inscriptions
(from top to bottom and left to right)

Bündel Querschnitt/Cross section through truss
- „bocklasche innen/Splicing plate on the inside
- Füllholz/Supporting plates

Lamellendach über Schleuse bzw. Aufenthaltsraum/
Lamellate roof over air lock and rest room

Draufsicht/Plan view

Bünderschnitt A-B/Truss section A-B

Schnitt C-D/Section C-D

This first «complete» drawing of the future Krematorium IV is from a civilian source. Although its final length (67.50 m) was marked on drawing 1678 (67.65 m), the Bauleitung had not drawn the left hand section, 48 m long by 12 m wide. It now has six ventilation chimneys emerging from an unbroken expanse of roof, the westernmost part not being lower as in the following drawing 3036. The function of this huge room of 576 m² is not indicated.

Although Messrs Konrad Segnitz produced both the drawing and the timber lists, the roof was built by Industrie-Bau AG.

Technical drawing of a ship's hull and deck layout. The drawing shows the hull structure with various beams and girders, and the deck layout with various equipment and structures. The drawing is labeled with various dimensions and notes. The hull is shown in profile, and the deck is shown from above. The drawing is a technical drawing of a ship's hull and deck layout.

Baulösung drawing 2036 of 11.1.43

The first version, 2036(p) [Pol'sh], is from PMO file BW 30b-30c/23, neg. nos 2634 and 20818/10.

The second and third versions, 2036(r.a) and 2036(r.b) [Russian], are from the «October Revolution» Central State Archives.

The six photos forming 2036(r.a) are to be found in PMO file BW 30i/43, pages 3 to 8.

Einäscherungsanlage für das KGL/Cremation installation for the POW camp
[Also added in the identification block: Krem IV u. V/Krematorium IV and V]
Deckblatt für die Zeichnung Nr 1678/Correction sheet to drawing 1678
Maßstab/Scale 1:100
Drawn by prisoner 127,
checked by SS Second Lieutenant Dejaco and approved by SS Captain Bischoff on 11th January 1943

2036(p) is the definitive drawing for what was to be Krematorium IV insofar as the external aspect and interior arrangement are now fixed and are to change but little despite some modifications made both during construction and afterwards. The orientation is not shown on the drawing, but reference to the actual building shows that it is «north up». The elevation is the north elevation of the future Krematorium IV. The two chimneys are thicker than on drawing 1678. The orientation of the ground floor plan is north up, west to the left, east to the right and south down. Section A-B is a cross-section of the western part and C-D one of the eastern part, through the 8-muffle furnace.

The main difference between this and the Karl Segnitz drawing concerns the roof height, which is has been made lower over the western part, above the two westernmost rooms and the corridor serving them.

A striking feature of drawing 2036(p) is that four of the rooms are not labelled: the two westernmost rooms and their corridor (with a total floor area of 240 m²) and the large room (245 m²) in the centre of the building. The stove for heating this room, present on drawing 1678, has disappeared, but each of the two westernmost rooms has a stove, the hearths being fired from the corridor, outside the rooms (using coal from the store next to the doctor's room).

Despite the absence of some of the function labels on the ground floor plan of 2036(p), useful indications are nevertheless present. It can be seen that each of the two westernmost rooms has a door direct to the exterior as well as to the corridor. Their ceilings are low (2.20 m). They are heated by stoves and there is a drain in the centre of each. They communicate with the centre of the building via the corridor and the vestibule. Next to the coal store for the stoves in these westernmost rooms, the presence of a doctor's room implies that the function of these rooms requires his presence. The large central room with three ventilation chimneys and no stove could be a morgue providing corpses for the 8-muffle furnace, as this is the room closest to the furnace room and no other room is labelled as being for this purpose.

Various Baulösung orders sent to the Auschwitz DAW workshops and two timesheets covering work done by Riedel & Son prove that the westernmost rooms were fitted with gas-tight doors and windows, and must therefore have been gas-chambers. According to various testimonies they were homicidal gas chambers. In that case, drawing 2036(p) can be read in terms of an industrial production line: two production units (gas chambers) requiring the presence of a doctor to certify death operate alternately, the «products» obtained are evacuated via the corridor and vestibule and stored in the morgue (in the centre of the building), which can also receive others coming from external sources; finally, the products are consumed (cremated). In this sequence the undressing room is missing. It could have been provided in the form of a hut erected outside but very close to the Krematorium, as was done in the case of Krematorium II in the second half of March 1943 (a wooden hut was erected in the yard to serve as a temporary undressing room while Messing was completing the installation of the air extraction system in Leichenkeller 2).

In order to explain the lack of an undressing room in Krematorium IV and V, it must be borne in mind that they were originally conceived simply as additional cremation installations, dependent on Bunkers II and 2, and not as fully fledged complexes like Krematorium II and III. Bringing the means of extermination under the same roof led the SS to supplement the first drawing, 1678, by a second, 2036, which is in fact labelled a «correction sheet» to drawing 1678. There would have been a third drawing with further modifications: to the ground floor plan in order to provide the missing undressing room had the SS not decided to resolve the problem by making the large central room play a double role: that of morgue and/or undressing room (an arrangement inspired by what was done in Krematorium I in the Stenlager). This double role made it possible for the Baulösung to use drawing 2036(p) as it stood, but for minor modifications.

Translation of inscriptions (from top to bottom and left to right):

Ansicht/Elevation [north elevation of Krematorium IV]

- Querschnitt A-B/Cross-section A-B
- Herakliht 3 cm/3 cm herakliht
 - Nagelbinder/Nailed truss
 - OK Gelände/Ground level

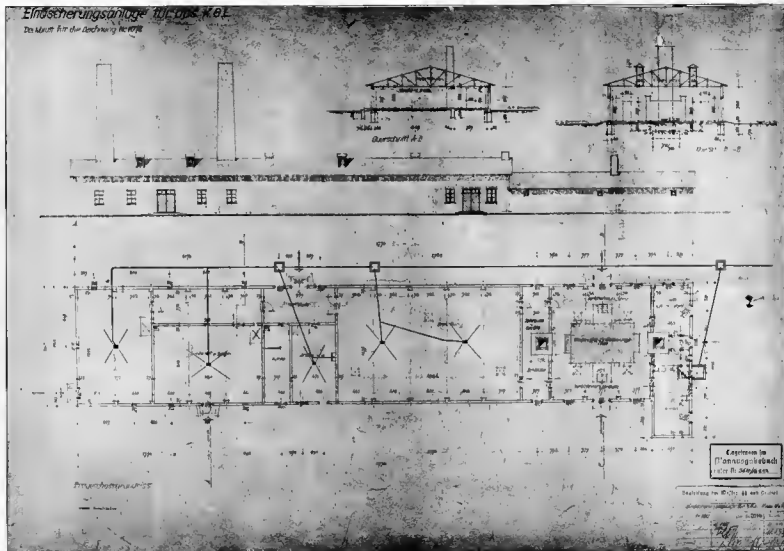
- Querschnitt C-D/Cross-section C-D
- OK Gelände/Ground level
 - Nagelbinder/Nailed truss

Edgechoß-Grundriß/Ground floor plan

- Binder/Pillar
- Lichte höhe 2.20 m/Clearance height 2.20 m
- Kohle/Coal store
- Vorräum/Vestibule
- Arztzimmer/Doctor's room
- Entlüftung/Air extraction
- Schloße u. Gerüst/Air lock and tools
- Schloße/Air lock
- Verbrennungsraum/Cremation room [furnace room]
- Achtmuffel Einäscherungsöfen/Eight-muffle cremation furnace
- Verbrennungsraum/Cremation room [furnace room]
- Anfechtungsraum/Prisoners' rest room
- Kohlen/Coal [in fact coke] store

Kanalisation/Sewer pipes

Bauzeichnung (drawing 3836(g))
of 11th January 1943



Translation of the additional inscriptions on drawing 2036(r.a):

- [in the room with »Lichte Höhe«]
- Kavernischen/Set in [lamps] (see enlargement of this section)

- [in the Aufenthaltsraum/Rest room]
- Brunnenkessel/Well [water] tank
- [above this room, by the shaded disc]
- Brunnen/Well

[also in this room, but very difficult to distinguish there is diagram of a pump with valve and electric motor]

- [the key below the inscription »Edgeschollgrundriss«]

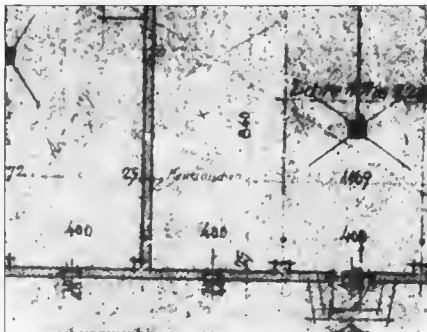
- Elektr. Installation/Electrical installation
- Kanalisation/Sewer pipes
- Wasserleitung/Water pipes

In addition to the drains and sewer pipes already shown on drawing 2036(p), this version also shows the position of the electric lamps lighting the building and the water supply system

The two westernmost rooms served by the corridor were each fitted with **4 lamps set into the walls** (=Wand-Lampen Versenkt«), also indicated on the drawing as »Kavernischen«). The corridor had two lamps protected by grids. The other rooms were lit by ordinary lamps with shades: 3 in the vestibule, 3 in the coal store, 2 in the doctor's room, 6 in the large room, 2 in the air lock, 6 in the furnace room, 1 in the coke store, 1 in the WC; 1 in the entrance on the right; 1 in the rest room. In this last there was also a water supply tank with a pump and its electric motor. The water was pumped from the well outside the building into the tank and gravity fed throughout the building. On the drawing, the water supply pipe runs from the rest room, along the bottom of the furnace room, air lock and large rooms, up the left hand wall of this last and along the bottom wall of the vestibule and ends in the corridor serving the two westernmost rooms. There are three taps for the washbasins, three in the large room, one with a washbasin in the doctor's room and two in the corridor, one outside the door of each of the two rooms.

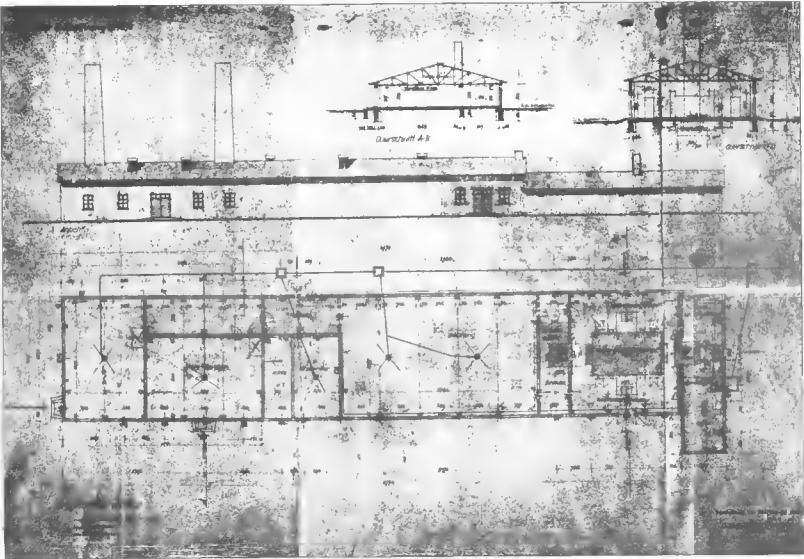
This drawing, completing 2036(p), shows that the two westernmost rooms were not only equipped with stoves and drains, but also that the **lamps were set into the walls** (as was the case with one lighting the washbasins on the extreme right of the building). The two lamps in the corridor serving these rooms were protected by **grids**. It might be thought that in such rooms the SS intended to install showers supplied with hot water heated by the big 8-muffle furnace, but no showerheads are shown and there is no deviation of the water supply pipe leading through a heating coil in the furnace. What is more, the water supply does not go into the two westernmost rooms but only as far as two taps in the corridor outside their doors. Semmarzring, drawing 2036(r.a.) shows that the two westernmost rooms were heated by stoves and water from the taps in the corridor was to be used in them, for the lamps were set into the walls and thus waterproofed and there were drains in the centre of the rooms.

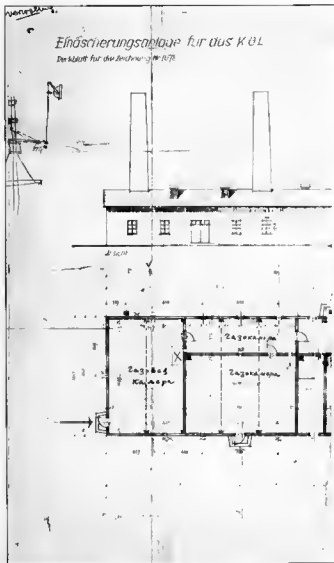
Enlargement drawing 2036(r.a) (1) of 10th January 1943



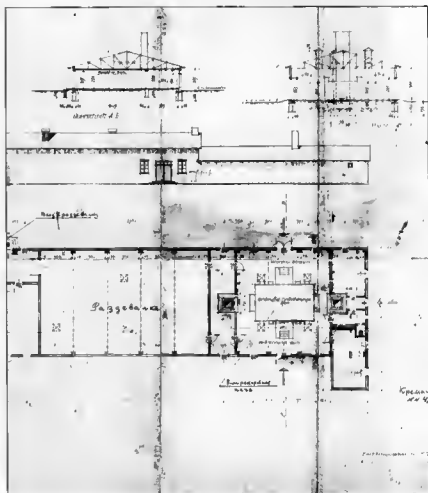
Enlargement of part of drawing 2036(r.a) showing part of the two westernmost rooms. The symbol for an electric lamp (⊗) can be seen against the dividing wall, with the label -Kavernischen/Set in-

Reconstruction drawing 2036a.1 (2)
of 11th January 1963





Rebuilding drawing 20Mtr.80 (A and B)



Rebuilding drawing 20Mtr.81 of 11th January 1943

This drawing was communicated by the Soviets in three parts. The two right hand parts match up perfectly, but it is impossible to join the whole (as the left hand part was reproduced on a different scale). Photographic reduction was used, but this resulted in the loss of certain details (the handwritten annotations), so the author preferred to present the photographic of the vertices of 20Mtr.80 as he received them.

Comments on drawing 2036(r.b)

2036(r.b) was found by the Russians in 1945 in the files of the camp administration (manuscript note «Verwaltung/administrations» upper left). As the figures in the identification block were difficult to read, somebody inked them over and made two mistakes: 2036 instead of 2034 for the drawing number and 11.4.43 instead of 11.1.43 for the date.

This is the simplest known version of 2036. It does not show the sewer pipes, water supply system or electric lighting. However, it seems to have been used during the construction of Krematorium V, for there is a pencil line extending the right hand side of the roof on Section C-D, representing the roof over the coke store, an arrangement applying to Krematorium V only.

Despite the apparently good quality of the photograph, it is too light, which makes it only just possible to see that two inscriptions have been scratched out and replaced by hand-written ones. There are also two additional hand-written inscriptions. These four changes are to be found: above and below «Köhle»; below «Arztzimmer»; beside the westernmost window of the north elevation. Who made these changes, the Germans in 1943 or the Russians after the Liberation? The only one legible, above «Köhle» reads «Haarstube», meaning «hair tube». In the author's opinion, this should be «Haarstube/Hair room», i.e. the place where the hair shorn from the gassed victims was stored. That under «Arztzimmer» is scarcely perceptible. The corrections in «Köhle» and «Arztzimmer» would appear to have been made after the war by a member of the Soviet Commission or a Sonderkommando survivor. The other two additions, which cannot be deciphered, are in gothic script, unlike the first two. The corrections correspond to a modification in the function of the rooms, pointed out by somebody who had lived in the Krematorium when it was in service. These additions concern changes made in the building after completion and confirmed by contemporary photographs. The window was filled in; two openings were made in the end of the coke store through which new deliveries were poured. Historically, the two corrections cannot be exploited and the two additions are already known through SS photos of the Krematorium.

The interest of this drawing lies in the modification in the number of openings illuminating the western corridor. There were two initially, then a third was added (visible on the ground floor plan). Then they were all filled in, as can be seen on the north elevation. Of the seven small external windows visible on drawing 2036(a), there remain only five. However, if they are considered to be not windows to illuminate the interior but openings for the introduction of Zyklon-B (the two rooms in this western part being gas chambers), it appears that each of the two rooms had THREE such openings (three opening on the exterior in the westernmost room, two on the exterior and one on the corridor in the other room).

Drawing 2036(b) shows that Krematorium IV (and hence V) underwent several modifications, especially in the western part. Drawing 2036 was not immutable and the different prints, all bearing the same number, are proof that there was some evolution. After undergoing changes, the total number of openings in the western part was SIX, and the initial orders were for SIX gas-tight windows, thus proving that ONLY THE TWO WESTERMOST ROOMS (without the corridor) were intended to be used as gas chambers, at least at this stage of the project.

The civilian firms who participated in the construction of Krematorien IV and V

1. The shells of the buildings

HUTA of Katowice
RIEDEL & SON of Bielitz

It must be pointed out that in the Huta files the Krematorien are sometimes given the «usual» designation and sometimes the official Bauleitung designation, which can lead to confusion and gives rise to some doubt concerning the dates taken from the timesheets of their site foreman Kolbe, who generally used the «usual» designation. It would appear that the «usual» numbering [I, II, III, IV] was prevalent until early 1943 and that the Bauleitung numbering [II, III, IV, V] was not generally accepted until right at the end of the construction phase. To further complicate the issue, the Bauleitung wanted contractors to use the worksite numbers [BW 30, 30a, 30b and 30c]. Certain differences of one or two days in the dates of starting and finishing and the duration of some jobs are due to the counting of Sundays in weekly and monthly reports as against the daily timesheets.

Huta produced the static calculations and drawings for the four chimneys of the two Krematorien [Photos A, B and C].

The firm began work on Krematorium IV [worksite BW 30b] on 23rd September 1942 [Photo B] and continued, apart from the Christmas holiday period, until 23rd January 1943, when Riedel & Son took over responsibility for this worksite and continued [Photo C] until 11th-20th March. Huta nevertheless continued to do some work on the site from 23rd January to 23rd February. Krematorium IV was officially handed over to the camp administration on 22nd March 1943. Huta fitted the window bars between 24th April and 8th May 1943.

Huta started work on Krematorium V on 15th-16th November 1942 [Photo F] and continued, apart from the Christmas holiday period, until 23rd January 1943. Riedel & Son took over this worksite, BW 30c, on 7th February and continued working there until 17th April, though Krematorium V was officially handed over to the camp administration on 4th April 1943. Huta finished off the job, fitting the «gas-tight doors» and window bars between 12th and 22nd April 1943 [Photo G].

The Bauleitung orders for materials sent to its materials administration [PMO file BW 30/35, containing the orders from 16th October 1942 to 13th January 1943] confirm the starting date for the construction of Krematorium V and show the number of bricks used.

Order 9626 of 29th October 1942 states that the materials are for the [foundations of] the Krematorium IV chimneys.

Order 9650 of 18th November 1942 is again for the [foundations of] the chimneys of Krematorium IV and V, commenced on 15th-16th of this month.

The walls of Krematorien IV and V were built in mid-December 1942, following orders for bricks placed on 9th December.

Order 9680 for 70,000 bricks for Krematorium IV;
Order 9681 for 120,000 bricks for Krematorium V;
Order 9682 for 100,000 additional bricks for Krematorium IV;

making a total of 290,000 bricks for the two Krematorien.

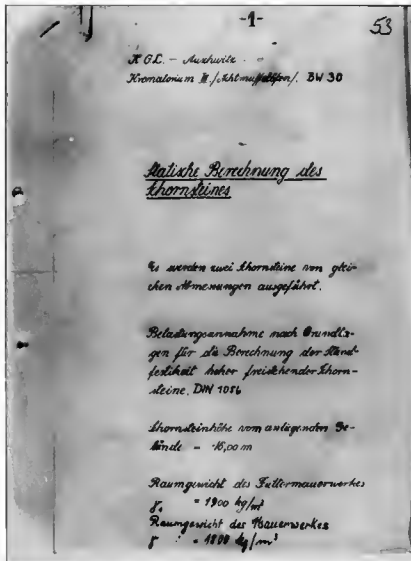


Photo A [PMO file BW 30/40 page 53]

First page of the 12 pages of static calculations for the chimneys of Krematorium IV, here marked II] according to the «usual» numbering. The worksite was BW 30b not 30.

4195

[illegible]

Report of the work done by a gang of 6 (including the foreman) employed by Herta, who "fixed gas-tight doors" (Gastdichte, einschließen) at Krematorium V on 16th and 17th April 1943, i.e. twelve and thirteen days after it was officially handed over to the camp administration. The foreman in charge of this work was called Zeitzmann.

407

2. The roofs of the buildings

KONRAD SEGELITZ of Beuthen
INDUSTRIE-BAU AG of Biele

The roof of Krematorium IV was designed by Konrad Segnitz (drawing 1481), who also drew up timber lists for the materials required (Photo H) and performed certain static calculations (Photos I and J). The roof frame was built, covered and finished with bituminous felt by Industrie-Bau AG (Photos K and L) between 4th January and 8th March 1943.

The roof of Krematorium V was a mirror image of that of Krematorium IV, so all that was needed was to invert Segnitz drawing 1361. This roof was probably also built by Industrie-Bau AG, but we have no documents to prove it.

3. The eight-muffle furnaces

TOPF & SONS of Erfurt
JOSEF KLUGE of Alt-Gleiwitz
(RIEDEL & SON of Bieleitz)

The two eight-muffle furnaces were built under the supervision of a Topf & Sons foreman, With KOCH, who carried out the final adjustments. For a financial consideration, he wrote and sent orders to the Auschwitz DAW metalworkshop for Krematorium IV (on 23rd and 27th February and 3th April 1943) and for Krematorium V (on 9th and 10th March and 8th April 1943). However, the details of the work carried out by Willi Koch and his weekly summaries of work done on the furnaces of Krematoria IV and V have not been found. Messrs Josef Kluge appear to have been responsible for most of the work of building the furnaces: from 1st February to 10th March 1943 for that of Kr IV and from 30th January to 25th May 1943 for that of Kr V (Photo M). During the building of the Krematorium V furnace, Kluge received the assistance of 3 or 4 bricklayers from Riedel & Son from 19th March to 10th April 1943.

4. The chimneys

ROBERT KOEHLER
[also sometimes spell Köhler] of Myslowitz

The foundations for the chimneys were probably built by Hnia at the end of October 1942 for Krematorium IV and the end of November 1942 for Krematorium V. The last chimneys proper were then built by Robert Koehler according to the drawings and calculations made by Hnia. Koehler worked on the chimneys of Krematorium IV from 31st January to 27th February 1943 (Photo N). There are no documents to indicate the dates for the chimneys of Krematorium V.

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| KONRAD SEGELITZ · BAUGESCHÄFT | |
| Beuthen OS. | Lindenstr. 38 |
| Inhaber: Carl Pluta, Baumeister | |
| Holz- und Eisen-Sparende „Vollmar“-Bauweise | |
| Bohlen-Lamellen-Decken und Bohlen-Dachbinder-Konstruktionen | |
| regulator | Eingang: 23 DEZ 1942 |
| Ihr Zeichen: | Ihre Nachricht: 27536/42 |
| Mein Zeichen: | Pl/W |
| Tage: 24. Dezember 1942. | |
| Betreff: <u>Einäckerungsanlage im K.G.L.</u> | |
| An
-die Zenträlbauleitung der
Weissen SS und Polizei,
Auechwitz O/S | |
| <p>Ich beziehe mich auf den Besuch meines Herrn Pluta vom 22.12.42 und nahm zur Kenntnis, dass Sie in der Einäckerungsanlage lt. Zeichnung Blatt Nr. 1361 in dem 48,00 m langen Teil nunmehr eine Decke aus Heraklithplatten verwenden wollen. Um die schon vorhandenen Holzabmessungen nicht mehr zu ändern ist beabsichtigt, die Binder nicht wie vorgesehen mit 1,33 m Abstand sondern mit 1,093 m Abstand voneinander aufzubringen. Bisher wurden benötigt 36 Felder mit 35 Bindern. Jetzt kommen infrage 44 Felder mit 43 Bindern. Also 8 Stück Binder mehr.</p> <p>Die Holzabmessungen bleiben im übrigen die gleichen, wie in der Holzliste vorgesehen. Ausserdem kommen noch 1300 lfdm Latten 4/6 cm stark zum Anbringen der Heraklithplatten hinzu.</p> | |
| - 2 - | |
| H: [Dossier P.M.O. BW 30/26, page 59] | |
| Lettre du 24 décembre 1942 de la Konrad Segnitz à la Bauleitung au sujet de la toiture (partie après la salle du four et ses annexes) du futur crématoire IV. | |

Photo H (P.M.O. file BW 30/26 page 59)

Letter of 24th December 1942 from Konrad Segnitz to the Bauleitung concerning the part of the roof over the furnace room and its annexes of the future Krematorium IV

Handlung

51

Die Holzpfeiler sind in der Höhe von 10 m
mit einer Querschnittsfläche von 1,5 m² ausgeführt.

Die Länge der Pfeiler ist 10 m. Die Querschnittsfläche ist 1,5 m².

Die Pfeiler sind in der Höhe von 10 m mit einer Querschnittsfläche von 1,5 m² ausgeführt. Die Länge der Pfeiler ist 10 m.

Die Pfeiler sind in der Höhe von 10 m mit einer Querschnittsfläche von 1,5 m² ausgeführt. Die Länge der Pfeiler ist 10 m.

Leistung

Die Leistung der Pfeiler ist 1,5 m² pro 10 m.

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Die Leistung der Pfeiler ist 1,5 m² pro 10 m.

Photo 1
(PNO file BW 30-40, page 51)
First page of a supplementary static
calculations made by Konrad Segnitz
for the roof of Kronsommer IV,
dated 23rd December 1942.

Die Länge der Pfeiler ist 10 m.

Die Länge der Pfeiler ist 10 m.

$$\frac{1,5}{1,225} = 1,225$$

Die Länge der Pfeiler ist 10 m.

Die Länge der Pfeiler ist 10 m.

$$P_1 = 1,5 \cdot 1,225 = 1,8375$$

$$P_2 = 1,5 \cdot 1,225 = 1,8375$$

$$P_3 = 1,5 \cdot 1,225 = 1,8375$$

Die Länge der Pfeiler ist 10 m.

Die Länge der Pfeiler ist 10 m.

Holzpfährende Vollmar-Bauweise • Entwurf D. S. S. M. Hofmeister
Baujahr 1942/43

Baugesellschaft Konrad Segnitz
Eisenbahn u. Hochbau
1044 428, Benthien O/S., Jülich, 1942

Photo 2
(PNO file BW 30-40, page 52)
Second page of the supplementary
static calculations of 23rd December
1942.

Die Länge der Pfeiler ist 10 m.

Die Länge der Pfeiler ist 10 m.

Die Länge der Pfeiler ist 10 m.

Holzpfährende Vollmar-Bauweise

2053/42

eingetragen

Die Länge der Pfeiler ist 10 m.

190 = 1,225

KARL FALCK of Gleiwitz
«FRITON» of Kattowitz

Some drainage work was done by Messrs Karl Falck outside Krematorium IV from 26th to 31st May 1943 [Photo Q] and by Triton-Iren from 2nd to 9th June 1943 [Photo P]. Nothing is known about the drainage work for Krematorium V.

In the deed of transfer by which Krenetzmayer IV was handed over to the camp administration [Prawo] of that for Krenetzmayer V has not been found) the Beustington mention only FIVE firms as having participated in its construction. Industrii le-Hau AG, Riedel & Son, Topf & Sons, Josef Kluge and Robert Koberle. The contribution of Kottas Segnitz is not mentioned, as it was too theoretical and the participation of Karl Fieck and "Trautn" was too insignificant. On the other hand, the omission of Huta is doubly incomprehensible. First, it is difficult to understand why the Beustington did not mention the Huta participation, which was as great as that of Riedel & Son. Second, the explanatory report that formed part of the Beustington's contribution to the construction of the Huta works, started in November 1942, whereas according to Huta archive [Prawo] work was started by them on 23rd September 1942, MORE THAN A MONTH EARLIER. At present neither the omission nor the discrepancy in the dates can be explained.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Industrie-Bau R. 6.
Tagebuch | | den 11. März 1943 Bau: <i>Reinhold</i> 274 Wetter: <i>gut</i> | | Bau Nr. <i>1312-92</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Arbeits-Stunden | | I. Rest des Neubaus | | II. Materialien | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| III. Reparatur | | IV. Reparatur | | V. Reparatur | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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Bauführer: <i>K. B. Reinhold</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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Photo K. APAC 400 MW MW 10, page 91

¹ The Industrie-Bezirk AG timetable for work done on Krimmerum (TV on 11th January 1943). A note has been added by Tschernow, a Bauleitung civilian employee, concerning the proper designation of the work-site: 'Der Bauleitung der obigen Bauarbeit am BW 30b KGL, und auch anders/Die Bezeichnung der obigen work-site: BW 30b POW camp and bathing sites. The Bauleitung were struggling to get these official work-site designations and Krimmerum numbering accepted, while the civilians working on the four Krimmerum found it more logical to simply number them one to four rather than two to five.

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The SS photographs of KGL Birkenau Krematorien IV and V

The photographs that follow come from three different sources, but all were produced in one of the two photographic laboratories in KL Auschwitz. These sources are:

1. The fifty or so photos «organized» by the former prisoner Lawin LUDWIK and conserved in the Auschwitz State Museum;
2. The Bauleitung Album conserved by the Yad Vashem;
3. The Auschwitz Album found by Serge Klarsfeld and also conserved in the Yad Vashem.

The photos from the first two sources, of common origin, were taken in 1942 and 1943 by SS Sergeant Kamann for the Bauleitung, for whom he worked, being in charge of the «Gardening» and «Photography» sections. Those from the third source were taken in May-June 1944 by SS Master-Sergeant Bernhard WALTER, responsible for the Identification Service located in Block 17 of the Stammlager, and his assistant, SS Sergeant Ernst HOFMANN.

Photo 2



Photo 1



Photo 1 (PMO neg. no. 308, Ludwik series)

First photo of the site of Krematorien IV and V. The stone head of the «Hergard/Kling road» is being laid by a kommando of women prisoners in the summer of 1942. The photo was taken on an ancient line and shows the western end of the Ringstraße, just before it turns south towards the Zentrall-Straße. The section under construction here runs between the future Krematorium IV (on the left) and V (on the right). The temporary washhouse in the scene background serves as a landmark for situating this photo and the next.

Photo 2 (PMO neg. no. 308, Ludwik series)

Photo taken on the same day and on the same line as Photo 1, showing the layout of the stone head of the Ringstraße between Krematorien IV and V in the summer of 1942. In the right foreground are two building officers consulting a drawing, probably that of the road. They are SS Captain Kurt BIRCHMEYER, head of the Bauleitung, and SS Second-Lieutenant Walter DEJACO, head of the Drawing Office. Behind Stiehoff, on his right, is a civilian (probably an employee of Lorenz & Co., one of the civilian firms working at Birkenau on the construction of the POW camp. Lorenz & Co. specialized mainly in site levelling, work that preceded the building of the so-called concrete foundations (Bauabschichten) of Birkenau.

Another photograph (PMO neg. no. 312) taken on the same day as Photos 1 and 2 shows the two SS officers again on the Ringstraße, but the photographer is facing northwest (see Part II, Chapter 3, «Krematorien II and III»).

Photo 3 (PMO neg. no. 20905-499 (Yad Vashem) and PMO neg. no. 308, Ludwik series)

The very first photograph of the construction of Krematorium IV taken between 1st and 15th January 1943, showing the east end (right foreground) and south side (left).

Work on the shell of the building was begun on Wednesday 23rd September 1942 by Herta of Karlsruhe and by Rudolf & Son of Berlin as indicated on the deed of transfer of Krematorium IV, dated 19th March 1943. Merus Robert Kuchler of Glatz was in charge. A total of about 80 men worked on works to 100, 40 or 70 of them prisoners, 20 of whom worked for Kuchler on building the chimneys. The shell and chimneys of Krematorium IV were completed on 23rd January 1943 and Herta's subsequent contribution to this task was greatly reduced. Rudolf & Son took over on 23rd January 1943 and completed the work on the structure of Krematorium IV and also took over the construction of the shell of Krematorium V, work that was also begun by Herta but left unfinished.

On this photograph the arrangement of the windows in the east end of Krematorium IV still corresponds to drawing 167L, which means that at a later date some had to be filled in and other openings had to be made. The walls of the older west (now east) end, already built, were too high and had to be dismantled to fix the roof. The western part of the building was not shown on Bauleitung drawing 167L but did appear on the Kamann-Sergeant drawing. The photograph is not very clear, but it would appear that only the foundations of the western end have been laid. The site foreman was perhaps waiting for the next stage in the programme, which was drawing 303a.

Photo 3



Photo 4
(PMO neg. no. 20995 502 (source Yael Vashem) and PMO neg. no. 295, Lushchik series)

Photos 4, 5 and 6 were taken on the same day, virtually one after the other, during the first half of February 1943. Photo 4 shows the east and (right) and the south side (left) of Krasnarmeen IV.

The building has now taken its final form in accordance with *Handwritten drawing 2036* of 17th January 1943, except for the east end, which is still in accordance with 1674. It was now Radeł & Sam working on the brickwork, assisted by *Indrakur-Ban Alu*, for the roof, whose staked timbers are almost all in place. The western part, defined by drawing 2036, has now been completed. There was apparently nothing to show as future homestead role, but the civilian employees of Radeł & Sam had no few *chamras* on the matter that they did not hesitate to designate the westernmost stints as *eggs chambers* on 2nd March 1943.



Photo 6
(PMO neg. no. 20995 500 (source Yael Vashem))

East end (left) and north side (right) of Krasnarmeen IV, seen from the Rangstede, on which two young SS men improvised as the delicate problem of keeping a motorcycle upright on the snow are superficially unaware of the disquieting architectural beauty of the Krasnarmeen.



Photo 5
(PMO neg. no. 20995 501 (source Yael Vashem) and PMO neg. no. 295, Lushchik series)

The openings to be seen in the same and are from left to right, in the south wall, two openings for pouring coke deliveries into the coke store; in the east wall, two windows lighting the coke store, a small window for the WC, the apertures across door one of the two windows in the east room.

From the slope of the roller (subtle by the eastern chimney) it can be seen that part of the upper corner of walls of the coke store will have to be removed if the road is to be level with that of the rest of the southeast end of Krasnarmeen IV.



Photo 7a

Photos 7 and 7a
[FMO neg. no. 297, Lashch order]

Until 1960, this was the only known photograph showing virtually the whole of the south side of Krematorium IV. Experimentation with photographic papers of different sensitisation and different exposure times severely improve the poor quality of the original at all, mainly due to the fact that the original was simply a contact print.

Just to the left of the building is the temporary watchtower located at the turn in the Ringstraße. The building itself is very nearly finished, which means that the photo can be dated as being taken in mid-March 1943. The windows have only just been installed, as those of the furnace room still have on them the cross-crosses of paper that protected them during transport. From right to left on the south side we can see: part of the extended wing of the exit store, the double door and three windows of the furnace room containing the eight smelter furnaces; the large central room lit by four small, high windows; the two windows of the ducter room; the windows of the coal store; lastly, in the western part, with a lower roof, a door and three small, high windows. In accordance with *Building drawing 2036*, the chimneys of the stoves in these westernmost rooms can just about be distinguished. Between the two chimneys, which have not yet been used (no soot stores at the top) it is possible to see a gas/soot reference sensor which is still there today. The fact that the south side of the western part of the building exactly matches *drawing 2036* led people to believe that the northern side of the building also matched *2036(p)* but this was mistaken.



Photo 7

Photo 8
[Enlargement of part of FMO neg. no. 2099A 455]

The western parts of Krematorium IV and V photographed from the Zentral Sauna, then under construction. The photo was taken at the beginning of April 1943 between 1st and 3th, by SS Sergeant Karsane, who was photographing the excavations for the foundations of the Zentral Sauna, looking north. He later took another photo from the same spot when the excavations were completed, but this 1948 his camera was tilted at a greater angle and the two Krematoriums did not appear in the picture, only part of the grounds of Kd IV enclosed by barbed wire. This barbed wire fence was being erected at the beginning of April, as mentioned in a letter from Hana to the *Baudienst*, dated 7th April [BW 3070, page 5].

The visible parts of Krematorium IV and V are labelled on the second photo.

This photo shows that the western and southern side of Krematorium IV was in accordance with *drawing 2036(p)*, and proves that the gas-tight shutters ordered by the *Baudienst* (from the DAW workshops on 13th February 1943) had indeed been fitted on 27th as noted by the *Rödel & Son* site foreman. The photo also confirms that the stoves were installed in the two westernmost rooms, for their chimneys are clearly visible. Finally, although the picture is somewhat blurred, it is possible to distinguish a door on the south side of Krematorium V (to the left of the coal-store window) giving onto the corridor and not shown on *drawing 2036*. Without this narrow door absolutely essential for proper ventilation, operation of the gas chambers of Krematorium IV and V would have been hampered by lack of adequate ventilation and the amount risk of contamination of the rest of the building.



A. J. 1943

Photo 3

Translation of inscriptions
(from left to right):

- Les chambres à gaz des Krematorien IV et V/
The gas chambers of Krematorien IV and V
- Façades sud et ouest, début avril 1943/
South sides and west ends, beginning of April 1943
- Bloc des 3 puis 4 chambres à gaz du Kz V/
Block of 3, then 4, gas chambers of Krematorium V
- Bloc des 3 chambres à gaz du Kz IV/
Block of 3 gas chambers of Krematorium IV
- Portes étanches au gaz/
Gas-tight doors
- Cheminée de poêle/
Stove chimney
- Les 2 cheminées du Kz V/
The two chimneys of Krematorium V
- Clapets de versement du Zyklon-B/
Zyklon-B introduction shutters
- Cheminée de poêle/
Stove chimney
- Réserve de charbon/
Coal store
- Pièce du «médecin»/
«Doctor's» room
- Aérations du vestiaire/moigne
Ventilation for undressing room/moigne
- 1 des 2 cheminées du Kz V/
One of the two chimneys of Krematorium IV

Photo 5: col

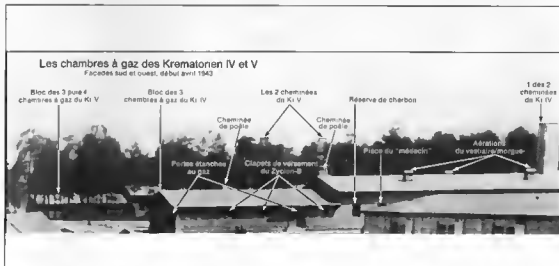




Photo 9 (FMO org. no. 2009/508)

The street side and east end of Krematorium IV in mid April 1943, shortly after it was officially handed over on 22nd March. The snow on the south face of the chimneys shows that the two 4 muffle half furnaces had already been operating and that the prevailing wind blew from the north. The openings in the east end have been modified to conform to drawing 2036 and the tops of the coke store walls have been modified to fit the slope of the roof.

There should be some additions to the labels on the photograph

On the east end

the access door, blocked by a metal bar

On the south side

at the end of the coke store the two openings for coke deliveries, between the doctor's room and the western part, window of the coal store for the stoves.



Translation of inscriptions (from left to right):

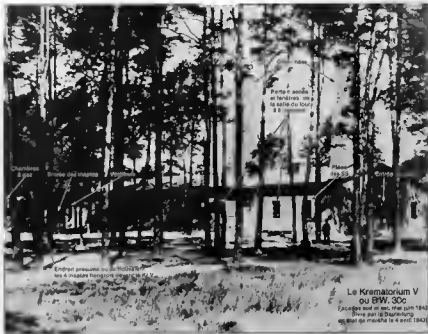
Le Krematorium IV ou BW 30b/
Krematorium IV or BW 30b
Façades est et sud, avril 1943/
South side and east end, April 1943
(livré par la Bauleitung en état de marche le 22
mars 1943)/
(handed over by the Bauleitung in working
order on 22nd March 1943)
Chambres à gaz/
Gas chambers
Porte étanche au gaz/
Gas-tight door
Pièce du médecin/
"Doctor's" room

Lucarnes éclairant le vestiaire/morgue
Small windows lighting the undressing
room/morgue
Sas/
Air lock
Cokerie/
Coke store
Salle du four à 8 creusets d'incinération/
Furnace room with its 8 cremation muffle
WC et lavabos/
WC and washroom
Pièce des SS/
SS room



Photo 10 (PMA neg. no. 20901-50A)

The south side and east end of Krematorium V, partly hidden by birch trees. Because of their location on the edge of the Birch Wood, Krematorien IV and V were called «the forest Krematorien». The straw limit the possibilities for historical exploitation of the photograph, probably taken in 14-15 June 1943. The traces of sand on the chimneys are not so pronounced as on Krematorium IV. The place marked on the labelled photograph by a black dot is where the last Hungarian Jews of Photo 14 were murdered in May June 1944.



Translation of inscriptions:

- Le Krematorium V ou BW 30c/Krematorium V or BW 30c
- Façades sud et est, mai-juin 1943/South side and east end, May-June 1943
- (livré par la Bauleitung en état de marche le 4 avril 1943)/handed over by the Bauleitung in working order on 4th April 1943)
- Chambres à gaz/Gas chambers
- Entrée des nappes/Entrance for the «unfit for work»
- Vestibule
- Endroit présumé où se tenaient les 4 nappes hongroises devant le K V/
- Presumed spot where the 4 Hungarian victims were standing in front of Krematorium V
- Chiménées/Chimneys
- Ponte d'accès et fenêtres de la salle du four à 8-croisets/Entrance door and windows of the furnace room with its 8 muffles
- Place des SS/GS room
- Entrée/Entrance
- Cokere/Coke store



Photo 11
[Photo 153 of «L'Album d'Ansbach» - by Serge Klarsfeld]

Contrary to what the author stated in «L'Album d'Ansbach» (Séville, photos 97, 98 and 99) and which were run out with 11) along the electric line, but on the Raingasse between the three administrative huts of Kramm II and the Zentral Sauna. In May-June 1944, and victims of the Warsaw Ghetto women selected in 15 for work was marching north and was going to pass between Krammstrasse IV and V in the direction of the entrance to B.III (Bismarck women's camp), their probable destination. The position of three women is shown in point 9 on the plan of Bismarck (last Sheet). Photo 11, looking southeast, was taken by an SS photographer standing with his back to the Zentral Sauna while the cohorts of prisoners was passing the entrance to the southern Eichenlagerstrasse (Eichengasse camp road) of Kanada II.

The error in positioning and photo and the two others in the series was and to the left of the hut in the background. This type of hut was to be found only in IIa and IIb, while IIc and Kanada II were supposed to have exclusively with «stable» huts. On the basis of this difference, the author and concluded that the three photos must have been taken in IIb. However, Photo 12 shows and the three huts of the westward row of Kanada II were of a different model from the «stable» huts of the rest of Kanada. Furthermore, in the original attempt to locate the photograph, the position of the sun and not been taken into account in determining the orientation. While it is difficult to make out this particular photo, the lighting on the two others leaves no room for doubt.

Above the road of the hut on the left are the two chimneys of Krammstrasse IV, with just on their southern face, an smoke emerging because the furnace had been out of order since May 1943. More than a year after Krammstrasse IV entered service, the state of the west south on its chimneys was still the same as in the photo taken in April 1943, another indication and the Krammstrasse cannot have worked for very long.



Photo 12 [PHO neg. no. 20995-047]

Rakowski saw the women plan II (Eichenlager II) was between Krammstrasse III to the north and Kanada II to the north. It corresponded to the five administrative huts numbered I to V from east to west. This photo was taken during the construction of huts IV, looking north as done in summer 1943. It shows the first few rows of huts of Kanada II, the first row being different from the others, which are all «stable» type, a fact and is not very evident from the Rakowski plan of Bismarck. In the background, between the service and third rows, part of the south wall of Krammstrasse IV, the section forming the underlying underground, can be seen. Between its two chimneys appears one of Krammstrasse V. The distance between SS Sergeant Kramm and Krammstrasse IV and V was 320 m and 440 m respectively. As usual, neither Krammstrasse IV nor V was working, for the slightest mishap of smoke can be seen escaping from their chimneys, which confirms and Krammstrasse IV was no longer used after May 1943 because it had suffered serious damage and and Krammstrasse V was used very little if at all between the middle of 1943 and May-June 1944.



Photo 13
[Photo 104 of «L'Album d'Ansbach» - by Serge Klarsfeld]

Photograph of the «stable» huts taken in the stable of Kanada II in May-June 1944. The SS photographer and left the north Eichenlagerstrasse and advanced a few meters between two of the «stable» huts of the north row (probably between 6 and 7, the huts being numbered 1 to 10 from west to east) and took the photo looking northwest. The point where he was standing is point 13 on the plan of Bismarck (last Sheet).

Above the edge of the «stable», but it is possible to see the tops of the two chimneys of Krammstrasse IV (on the left) and one of Krammstrasse V (on the right). There is no smoke coming from any of them, of course. However the background is full of smoke especially on the right in the extent that the outlines of the chimneys are somewhat indistinct.

The absence of smoke from the chimneys is easily explicable. Krammstrasse IV had been discarded since May 1943, despite an unsuccessful attempt to repair it in April 1944. The furnace of Krammstrasse V, also repaired in April 1944, and proved an unsatisfactory and open to corrosion defects and been dug out for later in northwest corner. The smoke on the photo comes from huts being evacuated to one or more of these huts. The prevailing wind blowing from the north, the smoke New towards Kanada II as corroborated by and photo.

In the author's opinion, this photograph is one more piece of incriminating evidence regarding the extermination of the Warsaw Jews in May-June 1944, for it contains two crucial elements: the direct evidence of the insupportable of huts that cannot be rationally explained without extermination, and the indirect evidence of the smoke coming from the bodies of Jews found in the huts being evacuated to the huts behind Krammstrasse V.

Translation of inscriptions:

- Zentral Sauna (baths and disinfection)
- Klärenlage I/Sewage treatment plant I
- Pumpenlage/Pumping station
- Cisternanlage II/Kernstrom II
- Voss 2/Track 2
- Klärenlage II/Sewage treatment plant II
- Effluentsanlage/Effects sump road
- Crématoire IV/Kernstrom IV
- Ringstraße/Ring road
- Crématoire V/Kernstrom V
- Réserve d'eau/Reservoir
- Fosse de décontamination provisoire/Provisional decontamination basin

- Canada II/Kanada II
- Camp des femmes/Women's camp
- Entrée/Entrance
- Voss 1/Track 1
- Hauptstraße a/Main road a
- Hauptstraße b/Main road b
- Quai a/Platform a
- Quai central/Central platform
- Quai b/Platform b

- Sektors Haupt/Hospital Sector
- Camp des Triganes/Gypsy camp
- Camp des hommes/Men's camp
- Industriestraße/Industry road
- Camp des Hongroises/Hungarian women's camp
- Camp de Theresienstadt/Theresienstadt camp

- Lagerstraße/Camp road

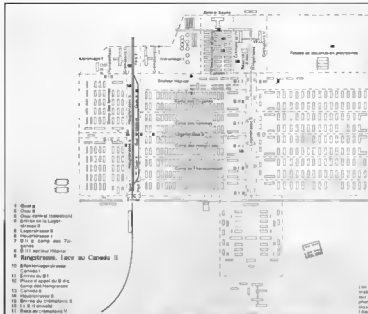


Photo 14

Les numéros au-dessus des photographies correspondent aux zones de prise des photographies par les SS, classées dans l'ordre de l'Albun. The bold arabic numbers correspond to the areas where the photographs were taken by the SS, classified in the order of the Album.

Plan of Birkenau published on page 42 of *l'Album d'Auschwitz* (Graf, novembre 1933), showing the position of the SS photographer for the different portraits. Photos 17, 18 and 19 of *l'Album* were taken from point 5, on the Ringstraße. The drawing on which this plan is based is *Bauzeichnung drawing 3764*, drawn by prisoner 63003 on 23rd March 1944, checked by Treuhänder (civilian employee) and approved by Johann Graf of the Bauleitung in 1944) on 24th March 1944. Drawing 3764 was already used as a general purpose plan of the site and several different photos were made with different additions according to the specific purpose of the various cameras.

Photo 14
(Photo 12 of *l'Album d'Auschwitz* by Serge Klarsfeld)

During the extermination of the Hungarian Jews located within for work in May-June 1944, this is the only photo we have of some of them between Krematorium IV and V. This woman and the three men are shown to raise the vestibule of Krematorium V. They have less than an hour to live.

In the background in the north side of Krematorium IV, on a back it is possible to identify, despite the trees, the following openings (left to right): the double door and two of the windows of the lavatory room 8 m x 3 m, the four small high windows of the vestibule, the underground room/margae, the first and second (left to right) a window of the vestibule, its door being reached by a tree, on the woman, lower, part is the door opening on the corridor serving the two neighbouring rooms.

The creation of an access door in the north wall of the washroom part of the building, not shown on drawing 3764, and the partial blocking of the second window of the vestibule were in reality problems found in the course of the first homicidal gassing in the building (which took place on March 1944), improvements made in the light of experience. The gas chamber in this western part and only natural ventilation. This is achieved either by opening the three doors external part of the western part of the door to the two gas chambers and the vestibule if the accident was due to a sudden gust of wind and cold wind passed on through the door between the corridor and the vestibule and concentrate the room opening into the vestibule, or, if the door between the corridor and the vestibule were kept closed, then according to drawing 2040 by the fresh air could enter through virtually only one opening of 30 by 40 cm (in the corridor), they immediately extending the door required for ventilation. In order to make the opening of the gas chambers more rational and less dangerous (ventilation through the vestibule), a door was made in the north wall in order to cause a north-south draught, the prevailing wind being northerly. It was then possible to rapidly clear the poisoned air while keeping the door between corridor and the vestibule as it kept closed. The partial blocking of the second window of the vestibule was also a point of security. After unloading in the washroom/margae the naked victims were directed through the vestibule in the gas chambers. Sometimes the first to reach these lavatory shower rooms with low ceilings, and no shelterable windows must have been pushed and even by the cold water in the dressing rooms, from which other victims were still emerging, pushed by the SS. The resulting crowding and struggles must have damaged the western window of the vestibule broken glass or even blown from under the pressure of the human mass. In order to prevent the recurrence of such damage the SS had a window locked in its top height.

At the date of this photograph, Krematorium IV was no longer used and it is seen to become accommodation for 500 to 700 Sonderkommando men: a man occupied the whole of the building, which is the gas chamber. Krematorium V was still used, however, as shown by these four Jews, led towards the entrance to its vestibule. Their bodies were no doubt not to be cremated in the furnace, but in the open air, as they had passed to the north a lot and that hidden from view by the building. A three meter high hedge is a fence erected to hide activities completely.

This very important photograph was *«unyard»* (or *«unyard away»*) by Robert Faurisson on page 8 and 9 of a pamphlet at 17 pages dated 9th December 1985 and entitled *Les Protocoles de l'Album d'Auschwitz* (The Protocols of the Auschwitz Album) distributed in the media following publication of the Album. The author is ill informed Faurisson's entire argument here, but the point is that, Faurisson was half informed by his drugs, a bottle of vodka, and a vast, to *«chasse»* (with content from *«pauvre»*) this photograph, which clearly has nothing tragic about it: it is obvious that the women in tightly clinging the hand of the man on the right. Such touching on the part of a man still *«solidarity»* (Faurisson's own *«solidarity»*) is not unusual.

His inability to prove that these two Hungarian Jews were anyone else than at four or five meters from the entrance to the vestibule of Krematorium V was not extremely low in the least. There is much to show he who will not see. As for the woman's attitude, it could simply be that she, with no *«drame»* about what is to happen and having seen the SS photographs, suddenly turned on *«ay»* saying to herself: *«I am in a real hell (bustard of a SS) in this photograph»*. Such a reaction would not be surprising. For some of the Jewish children, less and less and more spontaneous than their parents, instinctively feeling that the SS is about them no good pale faces in the photographs.

The «Polish Resistance» photographs

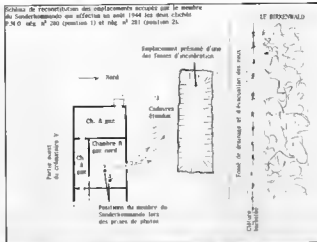
Presented in 1945 as the only photographs of the extermination of the Jews, taken in August 1944, they were attributed by Judge Jan Sehn in the initial publications of the Central Commission for the investigation of Hitlerian crimes in Poland and the Auschwitz Museum to the former prisoner David Szmielewski.

Four photographs were taken with a camera smuggled into Krematorium V. Two were of reasonable quality (Photo 15 and 16 (PMO neg. nos 280 and 281)), one just about usable (Photo 17 (PMO neg. no. 282)) and the last one useless (Photo 18 (PMO neg. no. 283)). The clandestine photographer had taken two pictures of corpses being burnt in the open air (Photos 15 and 16), one of naked women (Photo 17) and one of tree branches (Photo 18).

As a rule, the three usable photographs are not published complete, but just the «interesting» part is enlarged and printed with a general caption.

Photos 15 and 16 «Cremation of gassed bodies in open ditches» (PMO enlargements: neg. nos 277 and 278);

Photo 17 «Prisoners being led to the gas chambers» (PMO enlargement: neg. no. 279),



Photo/Sketch map showing the position of the Sonderkommando man who took the photographs from inside Krematorium V in August 1944. PMO neg. nos 280 (position 1) and 281 (position 2).

Translation of inscriptions:

- Nord/
North
- Partie ouest du crématoire V/
Western part of Krematorium V
- Ch. à gaz/
Gas chamber
- Chambre à gaz nord/
Northern gas chamber
- Positions du membre du Sonderkommando lors des prises de photos/
Positions of the Sonderkommando man when he took the photos
- Emplacement présumé d'une des fosses d'incinération/
Presumed location of one of the cremation ditches
- Fosse de drainage et d'évacuation des eaux/
Drainage ditch and sewer
- Clôture barbelée/
Barbed wire fence
- Le Birkenwald/
The Birch Wood



Photo 15



Photo 16



Attempted photographic reconstruction for Photos 15 and 16 made by the author in 1984, appearing inside the northern gas chamber at Krematorium V and looking northwest. The bush cross visible just behind the barbed wire fence should be ignored, too they were not there in 1944 and have grown since. The dark line of the Birch Wood can still be seen through them as particular on the right. The mobile tent the closed incineration of Krematorium V was simply placed around the perimeter, so that here the overgrown rubble index the presumed use of the cremation ditch, which was filled in by the SS before the Liberation of the camp.

The first two photographs (Photos 15 and 16) were never retouched, unlike the third (Photo 17), three different versions of which are known to the author:

1. The original (PMO neg. no 202 and its enlargement neg. no 779).
2. First retouched version (minor retouches only; reference not known).
3. Second retouched version, the «exhibition photograph» hung on the first floor of Block 4 («Extinction»), opposite the cutaway plaster model of Krematorium II (Photo 17a (PMO neg. no 202a)).

The major changes made to Photo 17 are to be found on Photo 17a:

- The attribution of faces to the three naked women, whereas they are totally indistinguishable on the original, each of the three bodies received a distinct face, with the lighting matching that of the rest of the picture;
- Transformation of their bodies, those of OLD women (thus unfit for work and destined for gassing and cremation) into those of YOUNG women (thus fit for work, so they should not be there, an embarrassing contradiction which evoked the «retoucher»), their breasts, filled on the original, being lifted and redrawn.

What is more, contrary to popular belief, the women are not «rushing towards the gas chambers», but are waiting to enter them. The two on the left are taking a few steps and the one on the right is walking normally. The location of the scene makes it possible to state that the western part of Krematorium V, containing the gas chambers, is BEHIND them, not in front.

This «enhanced» photograph has caused considerable emotional havoc, the results of which can be judged from three extracts from «*Extermination. Auschwitz-Birkenau*» by Andrzej BRUCH (NRF Gallimard, Paris 1980, pages 37, 54 and 79). They show the extraordinary intellectual confusion of an intelligent man, certainly far more lucid than most visitors to the camp. First of all, he evokes the history of the photograph:

«One day they [the Germans] undressed three hundred girls come from France or I don't know where exactly, they gave them a piece of soap each and one towel for two girls and crowded them between dykes soaked with petrol as high as houses, telling them that that was the way to the showers. But the wooden dykes had no exit and when the naked girls got to the end of the filthy well-hidden Germans caught them with flame-throwers and everything was burnt.»

Then, seeing the famous photo (17a) on the wall, he described it:

«On the walls of other rooms there were huge enlargements, they had thus immortalized these three hundred girls burnt alive at the very moment when the fire was about to devour them. Tall, white girls, three or four in the front rank, graceful, their hair clearly standing out against the grey streaks of the flame-throwers.»

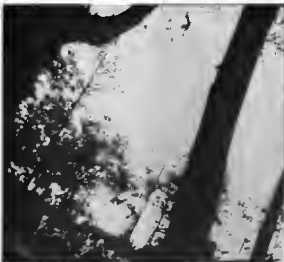


Photo 17



Photo 17a

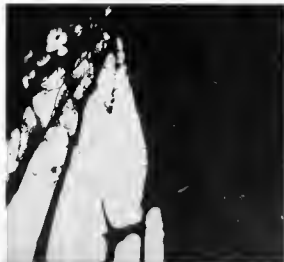


Photo 18

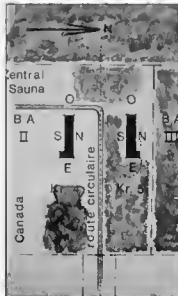


Photo 18a

Attempt to reconstitute the route taken by the «Sonderkommando» men who took photos 17 and 18 outside Krematorium V, after having taken the first two inside the building.

Q/West
«route circulaire»/Kingsdale
Pokerwald/Wash Wood

Finally, a common psychological mechanism, he assimilates the girl he loves, Jola and/or Jolka to one of these girls (who were in fact old women whom he would never have wanted in exchange for his Jola-Jolka).

«... If the photo that fits the whole well against which so many people persisted isn't that of Jolka, Jolka in the first row of girls running to their deaths in series of four, hair flying in the wind, a bit of soap in their hands, rushing towards the execution pits, encircled on all sides by flames...»

Thanks to this photo-montage we pass from reasonable history to irrational legend. The tendency to turn the history of the camp into legend was very strong indeed in the 50s, but has since been abandoned. Thus one of the last photographic publications of the Auschwitz Museum, dating from 1980, entitled «K. Auschwitz - Fotografische dokumente», simply reproduces the three infamous Polish Resistance photographs, enlarged but printed from the original negatives (pages 184 and 185, photos 183 [17], 184 [15] and 185 [16]).

Having the original photographs makes it possible to identify and precisely locate the scenes and the position of the photographer. Photo 15 *one* were taken from the inside of a building, through an open door. The only Bunker Kremlatorium possessing the three elements to be found on the two photos, a door giving onto a barbed wire fence with the birch wood in the background, was Kremlatorium V. In the western section there was the door of the western gas chamber meeting these conditions (and two doors in the north side, that of the northern gas chamber and the double door of the furnace room. A beam, the end of which is visible on the photos, supported the porch roof over these doors (not shown on drawing 3836, but visible on photo PMD neg no 20895/509). The porch roof outside the furnace room was about a metre higher than the door and was not visible from the interior, but those of the gas chambers, where the roof of the building was lower, were only just above the doors and could be seen from the interior. The line of the crowns of the trees (the Birch Wood damask from left to right, while it would have been horizontal had the pictures been taken from the west end of the building. This clue together with the orientation of the shadows indicates that the pictures were taken looking northwest, the photograph being in the northern gas chamber of Kremlatorium V [see sketch map]. The wind, normally from the north, was blowing from the west, or more likely, northwest.

As regards Photo 17, possession of the original is essential. It shows that the women are concentrated in the bottom left corner, while on the right it is possible to see the top of a Kremlatorium chimney which does not have the shape of those of Kremlatorien II and III, but those of Kremlatorium IV and V. The scene cannot have been located at Kremlatorium IV, with no trees in the immediate vicinity. Kremlatorium V was surrounded by birch trees. The photo was taken against the light, the south being in front of the photographer and the north behind him, with one of the two chimneys of a type IV/V Kremlatorium visible on the right. Given this orientation and these clues, the scene could be nowhere other than at the eastern end of an area between the south wall of Kremlatorium V and the line of trees bordering the Ringstraße. The photograph was to the east of Kremlatorium V and the three naked women were moving with their backs to the gas chambers in its western part. They were not running, but walking, sweating their «lumps».

The chimney of Kremlatorium V, as we might expect, is not smoking. We know from David Szmielewski that the four pictures were taken virtually one after the other, with only about fifteen minutes between the first and the last. One of the open-air cremation ditches was therefore operating quite close to the north side of Kremlatorium V while its furnace was not working, so that contrary

to the testimony of Sonderkommando men, the ditches were not in addition to the furnace but were dug to replace it, as it was out of service.

The author, having determined the location of the three photographs and of the Sonderkommando man who took them, had a conversation with Mr David Szmielewski at the end of 1987, and established just how the episode took place:

In the summer of 1944, the Sonderkommando men asked the camp resistance for a small camera so that they could record the criminal tasks they were forced to carry out, emptying of the gas chambers and incineration of the bodies... The Sonderkommando organized some damage to the roof of the gas chambers of Kremlatorium V and requested repairs. The internal camp resistance then came into action. A «flying squad» to which Szmielewski, a member of this organization, belonged came to repair the damage. Szmielewski was carrying a duffel bag with a false bottom in which the camera was hidden. Once the prisoner-repairs were on the roof, Szmielewski passed the camera to a Sonderkommando man working at the cremation ditch who had placed himself against the north wall of the gas chambers, under the roof overhang which was 2.45 from the ground. This prisoner then quickly entered the north gas chamber whose door was open for ventilation purposes. There he was safe, as the room had already been emptied of corpses. From the centre of this room he took two photographs of his comrades feeding bodies into the cremation ditch. Then, hiding the camera in his right hand, he emerged from the building and went along the north wall to the eastern end of the building then about 30 metres into the wood, moving parallel to the eastern end of the building, under the cover of the trees. In front of the Kremlatorium, to the south, a group of women considered unfit for work, the next «batch», was undressing. Some of them were already naked, a little way away from the others, taking a few steps while waiting. The sun was shining right in his face, through the trees lining the Ringstraße, so there could be no question of using the camera normally, using the viewfinder as he had done in the gas chamber. From rather far away, so as not to be noticed, he took a first picture of the women by guesswork, holding his right arm against his side with the camera in his palm. Hidden behind a tree, he wound on the film, emerged and took another picture in the same way as before. The direction the lens was pointing in was difficult to judge under these conditions and he pointed the camera too high, photographing the tops of the trees instead of the women [Photo 1a]. Retracing his steps, he returned to the comparative safety of the Kremlatorium, moving along the north wall to the gas chambers. Szmielewski was watching out for him. A quick look round, no SS. The Sonderkommando man held up the camera which rapidly changed hands again [see the photograph showing the assumed path of the photographer]. Szmielewski replaced the camera in the bottom of the duffel, the repair was completed and the flying squad departed. The whole process had taken only fifteen to thirty minutes. The photos were taken out of the camp and handed over to the Polish resistance in Cracow.

After the Liberation, the prisoner who took the photographs did not come forward, probably having been liquidated after the Sonderkommando revolt on 7th October 1944, so David Szmielewski became the sole survivor of this operation. The honour came to him and he was declared the author of the photographs, though honestly enough he always stated that he had been on the roof of Kremlatorium V throughout the whole episode. His friendship with Judge Dan Seln probably counted for much in this designation. After the war, David Szmielewski remained in Poland and was employed in an important post, but in 1968, one of the periodic waves of anti-Semitism swept through the Polish government and he lost his job because he was a Jew. He emigrated to France and has lived there ever since.

Photo 19



Photo 20



Photo 21



Krematorium V in early 1945, after the liberation



Photo 22

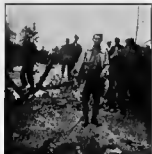


Photo 23



Photo 24



Photo 25



Photo 26



Photo 27

Photo 19 [PMO neg. no. 4707]

Photo taken at the end of January 1945 looking southwest from a temporary watchtower (visible on Photos 21 and 23) over the shapeless ruins of Krematorium V as they were left by the SS and looted by the Russians. There is a light covering of snow. In the foreground is a stack of logs, fuelwood for «natural» cremations. Work on clearing the ruins was to begin shortly after this picture was taken.

Photo 20 [PMO neg. no. 908]

Photograph of the cleared foundations of Krematorium V in February March 1945, looking southwest from a second temporary watchtower erected to the northwest of the Krematorium and now dismantled. The rubble from the ruins has been thrown aside in heaps a continuous mound around the foundations of the building. In the middle ground, a few metres from the drainage ditch, are excavations concerned with the sanitation ditches.

Photo 21 [PMO neg. no. 809]

View looking in the same direction as the previous one, but taken from the front of the watchtower. In the foreground is drainage ditch «Graben I.» and the haphazard fence «Zaun 35». On the extreme right in the background is the temporary watchtower from which Photo 19 was taken.

Photo 22 [PMO neg. no. 930]

View of the ruins of Krematorium V, looking west, after clearance of the rubble in March 1945. Despite the heap of rubble, parts of the steel frame of the 8-muffle furnace, twisted by the dynamiting of the building, and a barrow used used for clearing the foundations can be seen in the centre.

Photo 23 [Warner Central Commission Archives, neg. 14492]

View of the ruins of Krematorium V in March 1945, looking northwest from inside the Kergazelle. On the left are the railroad post (passer), designed by Konrad Segnitz and installed by Industriewerke AG. In the right background is the first temporary watchtower from which Photo 19 was taken. The second is not visible: being further to the right. This photo demonstrates the intrusion of the Soviet and Polish soldiers at that time to reconstruct Krematorium V, for all the recoverable components of the building were stored. In the end only Krematorium I of the Stutthoflager was fully reconstructed.

Photo 24 [PMO neg. no. 12684]

The remains of the two northwest muffle of the 8-muffle furnace, with a Leichenkammer (corpse storeroom), used for charging the corpses, looking against them. At the foot of the iron on the right is the sinking pit where coal was fed to the hearths. Wreckage of rail at the beginning of 1945 is the diversity of the clothing of the Polish and Soviet visitors, a mixture of recuperated German civilian and military dress.

Photo 25 [PMO neg. no. 12704]

Photo of the twisted frame of the 8-muffle furnace of Krematorium V belonging to the main series in Photo 24. Lacking walls.

Photo 26 [PMO neg. no. 12683]

An almost intact gas tight door found in the ruins of the western part of Krematorium V and presented by the ruin as short sleeveless iron Photo 24 (with the shaved neck). This door has no prepadding even though it was used for homicidal gasings. It is at present conserved in Krematorium I of the Stutthoflager, in the sinking pit of the third furnace.

Photo 27 [PMO neg. no. 3628]

View of the foundations of Krematorium V, looking west, taken between 1945 and 1950, before the partial rebuilding of the walls. In the foreground is the concrete entrance with on the right the WC (washroom) and the cake store. In the center are the twisted remains of the steel frame of the 8-muffle furnace. Bottom right is a concrete sewer manhole cover with a steel handle. A similar cover has been mistakenly placed beside one of the Zyklon-B windcatcher openings in the roof of the Krematorium II gas chamber.

Interior and



Photo 31

Interior and

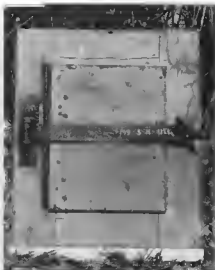


Photo 30

exterior of PMD II 5-641, produced by the Auschwitz DAW workshop, in accordance with the Bauleitung order of 1 May 1945 for 12 gas-tight «doors» 90 by 40 cm. These have the dimensions of the «door itself» and frame. In order to open the «door», TWO operations are necessary: after unscrewing the wing nut and pushing the link to the right, the metal locking bar has to be swung to the left. THEN the «door» can be opened.

Photo 33

exterior of PMD II 5-647, of a pattern different from the first, with a larger «door» of 45 by 52 cm. This new improved-model could be opened or closed in a single movement: the door being fixed to the locking bar. It must be recalled that the SS man who introduced the Zylinder II into the gas chambers of Rychnow IV and V had to balance on a short ladder in order to reach the opening: with a cast of Zylinder II in one hand and thus having only one hand free. This is why the manœuvring of the «door» was simplified. PMD II 5-647 is in very poor condition. On the right is the locking bolt and wingnut in the open position: the bar free to move. The heads of the bolts on Photo 32 are smooth and on the inside while the nuts are on the outside: a significant fact when the purpose of these shutters is known.



Photo 34

Outside of P80 H-5-64/L
of the second person, door 40
by 50 cm, in excellent condition.



Photo 35
and



Photo 36

P80 H-5-64/L with its doors open

In order to make it gas-tight, two hands
at left were raised to the door and the
frame (rings at left can still be seen on
the hands).

«ONE PROOF... ONE SINGLE PROOF»: THIRTY-NINE CRIMINAL TRACES

A complete list of the «criminal traces» or «slips» found in the archives of the Auschwitz State Museum and the Warsaw Central Commission concerning the homicidal gas chambers in Birkenau Krematorien II, III, IV and V, presented together with original documents and two recapitulatory drawings by the author.

«ONE PROOF... ONE SINGLE PROOF»

[Requiem formulated by Robert Farnston. In an article on page 13 of the newspaper «Le Monde» of 16th January 1979, then used as a title for his letter of 29th February 1979 addressed in right of reply to the same newspaper, which refused to publish it, and which its author nevertheless published in his «Mémorial en défense» [statements for the defence], La Vieille Taupe, 1980, pages 96 to 100.]

Farnston asked for «one proof... one single proof» of the existence of homicidal gas chambers. The «rationalist» historians provided him with an «abundance of proofs» which were virtually all based on human testimony, from SS and surviving former prisoners and Sonderkommando men. But human testimony is fallible. It is unreliable and Farnston wanted a CONCRETE historical proof, that is proof based on indisputable and inflexible documents. Four types of historical document would meet these stringent criteria:

photographs and films made between 1942 and the end of 1944 in KL Auschwitz, German letters and documents, original drawings concerned with the camp,

So far as we know at present, no film was made recording the extermination of «Untersort». On the other hand, there is no lack of photographs of Krematorien under construction or completed in the «Bunker»-Alban, not yet published and of the arrival of four convoys of Hungarian Jews and selections of two of them (in «L'Album d'Arrivée» by S. Klarsfeld and Semlitz). The main obstacle to using these last photographs as evidence is that, except for three of them, they present only «views of peaceful country scenes» against a background of barbed wire. The SS photographers did actually go inside some of the Krematorien, but they did not record the final act, extermination in gas chambers. Some members of the Sonderkommando, according to the deposition by one of them, Henryk Tauber, took photographs showing corpses in the gas chambers, but after being buried near Krematorien II and III, these vital photographs have never been found, and if by chance they should be discovered one day, they will be irretrievably damaged after over 40 years in the ground. We also have three photographs known as the «Polish Krematorium»-photographs recording the incineration of bodies in a ditch behind Krematorium V in the summer of 1944 and of raked «women with their backs to this same Krematorium». They are certainly of exemplary value, but are difficult to use in view of their small number and, like those of the «Album d'Arrivée», cannot be presented as definitive proof.

As for the technical drawings of the Krematorien, cited in legal

actions and described as proving that they were planned for large scale assassination by gas (which is in fact incorrect, NOT ONE explicitly mentions in so many words anything like: Blausäure [hydrochloric acid] Vergasung, or Gaskammer or -keller [gassing or gas chamber or cellar]. This is not because the drawings were «camouflaged» in any way, but is simply because the buildings concerned were converted from their original function, crematorium pure and simple, and transformed for criminal use, so that the compromising words could not have been written on the original drawings of Krematorien II and III, and were probably left out on those of IV and V.

In the final analysis, there remain only the various types of correspondence and official documents of German origin. Through the «slips» that can be found in them, they form a convincing body of presumptive evidence and clearly indicate the presence in the four Birkenau Krematorien (II, III, IV and V) of gas chambers using a prussic acid disinfection agent sold under the name of «Zygon B». In 1979-80, it was impossible to go any further than this, i.e. to demonstrate with the aid of «concrete» documents that these gas chambers had been used. At the end of the 1980s, the Auschwitz trials, already badly yet managed to produce «one proof... one single proof» of the existence of «homicidal gas chambers» in Auschwitz-Birkenau.

In the absence of any «direct», i.e. palpable, indisputable and evident proof (backed up far as we know at present) such as a photograph of people killed by a toxic gas in an enclosed space that can be perfectly located and identified, or of a label on a Krematorium drawing of a «Gaskammer» man Juden en vergifteten/gas chamber for poisoning Jews» an «indirect» proof may suffice and be valid. By «indirect» proof, I mean a German document that does not state in black and white that a gas chamber is for HOMICIDAL purposes, but one containing evidence that logically it is impossible for it to be anything else.

The first document [Document A] presented here is an inventory of equipment installed in Krematorium III and formed part of the file of documents compiled for the official handover of the new building to the camp administration. [Auschwitz State Museum Archives reference BW 3043, page 24. This document, held in the «October Revolution» Central State Archives in Moscow, was sent by its body in 1964-65 to the Warsaw Central Commission for the investigation of Hitlerite crimes in Poland, which sent it under a covering letter of 30th October 1968 to the Vienna Justice Court to be part of the evidence in the trial of the Auschwitz Krematorium «architects», former SS officers Walter DEJACO and Fritz ERTL. This trial was held from 18th January to 10th March 1972

and ended with the acquittal of the accused. The documents sent by the Poles to the Austrians were scarcely used by the «experts», which explains the astonishing verdict of not guilty, in particular for DEJACO.]

This inventory indicates that the equipment installed for «Leichenkeller 1/Corpsse Keller [mortuary] 1» included:
- 1 gas-tight Tin/1 gas-tight door» AND
- 14 Brausen/14 showers.

Two items that are strictly INCOMPATIBLE with one another. This incompatibility constitutes the **FUNDAMENTAL PROOF**, for it is clear that:

Proposition A A gas-tight door can be intended only for a gas chamber

Question A. Why does a gas chamber have showers in it?

Reply A. Incomprehensible. Proposition A must be formulated differently for a logical reply.

Proposition B A room fitted with showers is a place where people wash themselves

Question B. Why does the only entrance to the shower room have a gas-tight door?

Reply B. Incomprehensible. Proposition B must be formulated differently for a logical reply.

Which sends us back to proposition A, question A, reply A, proposition B, etc. The reasoning is in a vicious circle which cannot be broken. The only way to escape the discrepancy is to bring **complementary proof** demonstrating that one of the propositions IS INCORRECT. This can be done by means of the following arguments:

The average area covered by a shower head, calculated on the basis of the drawings for the two shower installations in the Stammlager, the reception building (BW 160) and Block 26, and for those at Birkenau, BW 5a, 3b, and the Zentral Sanita (BW 32), works out at 1.8 m².

On this basis, Leichenkeller 1 of Krematorium III, with a floor area of 210m², should have 115 shower heads.

In fact only 14 were planned and we know that they were FITTED, because seven wooden bases to which similar shower heads were fixed are still visible in the ruins of the ceiling of Leichenkeller 1 of Krematorium III.

On one of the copies of the Krematorium III inventory drawing 2197, that from the Soviet «October Revolution» central state archives, water pipes are shown supplying the 3 taps of Leichenkeller 1 and the 5 of Leichenkeller 2, but none are connected to the «showers». This is paradoxical because on this version of drawing 2197 even the lamps are drawn on and on various other drawings showing shower installations the shower heads are necessarily shown and the associated pipework usually appears also.

It can only be concluded that these are DUMMY SHOWERS, made of wood or other materials and painted, as stated by several former members of the Sonderkommando.

This inventory is absolute and irrefutable proof of the existence of a gas chamber fitted with dummy showers in Krematorium III.

These dummy showers were not placed there by chance, or for purposes of decoration, but with a very precise purpose: to mislead the people entering Leichenkeller 1, gas chamber 1, a misrepresentation implying the deliberate intention to cause them to die by inhaling a deadly gas.

These Krematorium inventories, drawn up when the buildings were completed, also provide an almost incredible **supplementary proof** mention of the device for introducing Zyklon-B into a Leichenkeller. The second document [Document B and B'] [Auschwitz State Museum Archive reference BW 3043, page 12, also from a Soviet source] contains a flagrant error on the part of the SS man who filled in the form.

The first line indicates that in the basement of Krematorium II, «Raum 1, Leichenkeller/Raum 1, corpse cellar» was fitted with:
- «16 Lamp o. Kug. n. Tel. Feuchtsicher/16 lamps other than globes, waterproof» and
- «5 Zapfthine/5 taps».

The second line shows that «Raum 2/Raum 2», idem [Leichenkeller] was fitted with:

- «10 Lamp o. Kug. n. Tel. Feuchtsicher/10 lamps other than globes, waterproof»
- «Zapfthine/5 taps»
- «4 Drahtnetzeinschiebvorrichtung/4 wire mesh introduction devices» and
- «4 Holzblenden/4 wooden covers».

CRIMINAL TRACES FOR KREMATORIUM II

1. «Vergasungskeller/gassing cellar»
[PMO file BW 30/40, page 100]

[Photo 1]

Letter of 29th January 1943, from SS Captain Bischoff, head of the Bauleitung (Auschwitz Waffen SS and Police Central Construction Management), requested by SS Second Lieutenant Pollok (Buildings Section) and addressed to SS Major-General Kammeler in Berlin, concerning the progress of work at Krematorium II, in which the word «Vergasungskeller» is used. The inspection report enclosed with the letter makes it possible, through a process of elimination, to establish that Bischoff uses «Vergasungskeller» to designate «Leichenkeller I» of Krematorium II.

2. «10 Gasprüfer/gas detectors»
[PMO file BW 30/40, page 48]

[Photo 2]

Telegram sent on 26th February 1943 at 1820 hours by SS Second Lieutenant Pollok, signed by SS Second Lieutenant Karschneck (Buildings Section specialist and technician) and by Jähring (civilian employee, heating technician), to the firm Topf & Sons of Erfurt, requesting immediate despatch of «10 gas detectors» for BW 30 (Krematorium II) [in order to check the efficacy of the ventilation system in the gas chamber]. In the week of 1st to 7th March 1943, the Topf fitter Messing started up the ventilation and air extraction systems of Leichenkeller I of Krematorium II and tested them the following week, 8th to 14th, just before the first homicidal gassing in this room. Just at 1500 Crowl Jews on 14th March. Messrs Topf, manufacturer of metal parts for incineration furnaces and grates, was unable to produce this type of equipment and must have sub-contracted.

3. «1 Sieb Handsgriff für Gaster D 12/handle for gas/light door, 12 [5] diameter»

[Photo 3]

[Volume 11 of the Hoss trial, Annex 15 concerning the book known as «Schlosserei Wl»/metalworking shop Wl. The original is to be found in the possession of the Auschwitz State Museum, and is probably conserved in the «October Revolution» Central State Archives in Moscow. This book contains records of the work carried out by the metalworking shop for the construction and maintenance of the Birkenau Krematorium in accordance with orders issued by the Bauleitung. Some of these orders have survived and are conserved in the PMO Archives in a black file entitled «Zentral Bauleitung der Waffen-SS und Polizei, Auschwitz OS (Bestellscheine für Deutsche Anstaltswerke, Auschwitz OS, 1943-1944/Waffen-SS und Polizei Central Construction Management, Auschwitz, Upper Silesia (order forms for German Equipment Works, Auschwitz Upper Silesia, 1943-1944), now classified as File BW 30/31, comprising 416 pages, microfilm No 1258. Certain extracts form Annex 14 of volume 11 of the Hoss trial, a report of 22nd October 1945 indicating the discovery of the file on the Bauleitung premises. File BW 30/31 is incorrectly referred to as simply the «Schlosserei» file to distinguish it from the «Schlosserei Wl» file.]

6.3.43, Nr 162, KGL, Krematorium II BW 30.

Order issued by the Bauleitung on 5th March 1943 under the number 64, received on 6th March by the DAW metalworking shop under number 162, requesting the making of «1 handle five gas/light door, 12 [5mm] diameter» for Birkenau Krematorium II. It was completed on 16th March.

4. «Auskleideraum/undressing room»
[PMO file BW 30/25, page 7]

[Photo 4]

Letter of 6th March 1943 from the civilian employee Jähring, signed by the head of the Bauleitung (now Major Bischoff, addressed to Messrs Topf, regarding the possibility of preheating Leichenkeller I of Krematorium II and III [BW 30 and 30e] with air coming from the three forced draught system installations [across to the collective chimney]. The preheating of the Leichenkeller completely demolishes the revisionist argument according to which the Leichenkeller I were not gas chambers but «typical underground morgues». Why would anyone want to heat rooms that by definition ought to remain cool? This idea would be absurd if there had not been a change of function, transforming these rooms from morgues into gas chambers, where the temperature had to be high enough for the product introduced to vaporize rapidly. This project could be realized only in Krematorium II, where three «Sangzuganlagen» were actually installed. Because of overheating problems with the three electric motors in these forced draught installations, and a fire caused by one of them [see the account by Henryk Tauber in Part II Chapter 3], the «Sangzuganlagen» were dismantled and this forced draught system, also planned for Krematorium III, was abandoned, thus also putting an end to this suggested method of preheating Leichenkeller I. The letter also mentions a modification in the air extraction system of the «Auskleideraum/undressing rooms» (of Leichenkeller 2) without the Krematorium concerned being specified. Although the term could apply to either II or III, the date of the letter in relation to the stage of construction of the two buildings makes it most likely that it refers to Leichenkeller 2 of Krematorium II, whose function, like that of Leichenkeller I, had now changed.

Aboschrift

29. Jänner 1943

zftg.Br. 2225e/43/31/L.

NeTr: Krematorium II. Tausch stand.

Besag: Fernschreiben des H-VHA Nr. 2648 vom 28.1.43.

Anlg. 1 Prüfbericht

An

Antegruppenschef (s.)
Hauptgruppenführer und Generalmajor
der Waffen-SS Dr. Ing. Kammeler;
Berlin-Weidenhof-Weg
Unter den Eichen 126-135

Das Krematorium II wurde unter Einsatz aller verfügbaren Kräfte trotz unangenehmer Schwierigkeiten und Frostweiter bei Tag- und Nachtbetrieb bis auf bauliche Kleinigkeiten fertiggestellt. Die Ofen wurden im Beisein des Herrn Oberingenieur Prüfer der ausführenden Firma, Firma Topf u. Söhne, Erfurt, abgefeuert und funktionierten tadellos. Die Gasabströmung des Leichenkellers konnte infolge Freistellung noch nicht ausgenutzt werden. Dies ist jedoch unbedeutend, da der Vergasungskeller hierfür benützt werden kann.

Die Firma Topf u. Söhne konnte infolge Wagengesperre die He- und Entlüftungsanlage nicht wie von der Zentralbauleitung gefordert rechtzeitig anliefern. Nach Eintreffen der He- und Entlüftungsanlage wird jedoch mit dem Einbau sofort begonnen, sodaß voraussichtlich am 20.2.43 die Anlage vollständig betriebsfertig ist.

Ein Bericht des Prüfingenieurs der Firma Topf u. Söhne, Erfurt, wird beigelegt.

Der Leiter der Zentralbauleitung der Waffen-SS und Polizei Auschwitz

Verteiler:

1. Oberst Janisch u. Tirsowitsch
1. Hauptsturmführer (Alt Krematorium)

Hauptsturmführer

S. R. d. A.

Handwritten signature

Hauptsturmführer

8428

Answer: 1. Telephone List

Text: Abender selbst ist Gaspriser in bespitzten, Fortschritt-
lerischer archaisches.

Lehrer: allgemeine Grundlagen
gen. Physik
die Schwingungsbewegungen

86.2.43 10²⁰ *Isotria medeolae*

संयोजकता

64 30/34

Photo n° 2

[illegible]

Photo 3

Annexure A: C.2.1.4

PAŃSTWOWE BUREAU WARSZAWY
ARCHIWUM

RW 30/25

NY 100-84366-43/JEV/JS

Betr.: Fla. Anschw. v. Frau. II und III KGL. Nr. 30 u. 30 e
Bemerk.: Dort. Schreiben vom 22.7.43 B.IV. Prof.
Anl.: - - -

Firma
TOPF und Söhne
Herrn

Auf Grund dieses Vordrängens erfüllt sich die oben fest-
stelte Erwartung, dass der Keller 1 mit der Abfahrt aus
den Räumen der 3 Stauganganlagen vorgesehen wird. Die ge-
Lieferung und der Einbau der hierfür benötigten Fahrlei-
stungen und der Druckluftgebühren aus schnellsten erfolgen.
Wie Sie in u. a. Fahrleiten angegeben, sollte die Ausführung
noch in dieser Woche geschehen. Um Vergabe eines spezifi-
zierten Kortenangebots 3-fach für Lieferung und Einbau
wird gebeten.

Daneben wird um Einleitung eines Nachtragsgesetzes für die Umänderung der Patilftungsriele für den Ankleiderung gebeten.

Nach Eingang dieser Angebote wird Ihnen schriftlich
auftrag erteilt.

Der Leiter der Zentralverwaltung
der Waffen- und Polizei Angelegenheiten

E-mail: salvatore.maffucci@univie.it

Verteiler:
1 Bault. KL u. Landw.
2 Registr. KUL BW 30 u. 30 e
1 Sachbearb.

7

[illegible]

J. A. TOPP & SOHNE ERFURT

TOPP

Montagsbestellung

ARBEITSZEIT-BESCHEINIGUNG

Bestellungsnummer No. **895**

Haus No. **1481** d. g.

Abrechnungsperiode 16

| | I Festpreis-Arbeit | | | | | | | | | | II Zeitlohn-Arbeit | | | | | | | | | | Sonstige Arbeiten | Gesamt Summierung der geleisteten Stunden |
|----------|--------------------|-------|------------------|----------------|-------|------------------|----------------|-------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|-------|------------------|-----|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----|-------------------|-------------------------------------------|
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| | Tag | Nacht | | Tag | Nacht | | Tag | Nacht | | Tag | Nacht | | Tag | Nacht | | Tag | Nacht | Tag | Nacht | Tag | Nacht | |
| Montags | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | (Hauseinsatz 30%)
Hauseinsatz 70%
<i>Entlohnung der Hausarbeit</i>
<i>1. bis 1.10.1918</i>
<i>13.04.1919</i> | | | | |
| Mittwoch | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Freitag | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sonntag | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Summe | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Handelsbuch-Bestellung

unverändert

Handwerksbuch-Bestellung

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Handwerksbuch-Bestellung

unverändert

Unterschrift des Hausbesitzers

im Handelsbuch-Merkmal oder Fern

in bestmöglicher Weise der vollständigen Beifügung

des Blattes gesamt Unterschrift

[File BW 30/43, page 34, verso of the Krematorium II handover document dated 31st March 1943.
The recto being BW 30/43 page 9]

[Tables 9 and 10]

This document, considered gas poisoning, was thought to prove the material reality of homicidal gas chambers.⁶ Officially referred to as the first time in the afternoon of 30th June 1980 at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales during the Colloquium on „NAZI GER-MANY AND THE JEWISH GENOCIDE“, held at the Sorbonne, it was one of the high points (if not the high point) of the paper, announced as most important, on „Das Gaskammerproblem“ by Professor Dr Wolfgang SCHEFFLER of West Berlin. After recalling the term -abnormal- functions (Krankenheiten) II and III, followed by mention of the possible preheating of Leichenkeller I (cf the letter of 6/24/41, BfW 925, page 7, [Part II, chapter 6]), a sign of its use as its gas chamber since a temperature of 26°C is necessary for the hydrocyclic steam to evaporate, Schifferler cited a description of the building on its official handover, mensurung – i.e. gas-light doors. The original document, which was also included in the book, was signed by the author, Wolfgang Scheffler, who had been involved in the construction of the original document. Questioned on its origin, he said that he had obtained it from Moscow. Later on, he told me that it could not be communicated as it could not be either photographed or photocopied, which is difficult to believe. This unknown extract, presented totally without context, brought nothing new or «definitive», other than confirmation that the entrance to one of the Leichenkeller I was fitted with a gas-light door, which was already explicitly stated in the letter of 31st March 1943 (*Prüfung*). The traditional nature, not to say the modularity, of his paper was such that it was not reproduced in the published proceedings of the Colloquium and was replaced by one by Uwe Dierich ADAM (University of Tübingen), a recognized specialist in the ‘gassing tracks’ rather than the problems raised by the gas chambers props. The fact is that this document came from the «OCTOBER REVOLUTION»: Central State Archives in Moscow. Transmitted to the Warsaw Central Commission, then sent to Vienna, where it was produced at the beginning of 1972, it is all others of the same type, although not identical, as the former SS officers Walter Siegel and Fritz Ertl, it formally indicates that the entrance door was made of wood. It is KRIMATURBUM II, which was signed by Wolfgang Scheffler and consists of a copy of only about 8 pages concerning the acceptance of the Birkenau Krematorium. The total would be greater than this.

Page 9 is page 9 of BW 1043, recto of the handover document for Krematorium II, stating that the building was constructed in a workman-like manner, using both prisoners and outside civilians. Only the main firms involved are mentioned, though there were others.

Photo 1B is page 34 of BW 30/43, verso of the handover document for Krematorium II. The only real significance of this document is that, while it may have been possible to unblather about the meaning of «Gastgu», this is no longer the case with «Gastdächter».

- #### 8. 4 Drahtnetzschleifvorrichtung

4 wire mesh introduction devices

(Plate II)

9. 4 Holzblenden/4 wooden covers.

File BW 3043, page 12 for both!

Inventory annexed to the Krementsov II handover document (dated 11 March 1944) [Peters] concerning the room. The clerk who filled in the form made a mistake, putting some of the entries on the wrong lines: the 4th were microinstruction devices and the 4 wooden covers were installed in Leichenkeller 1 of Krementsov II, not in Leichenkeller 2 as indicated (for the demonstration of this inversion see the end of "One proof, one simple proof"). The four devices and their covers were used to introduce Zytzin 6 into Leichenkeller 1 of the gas chamber of Krementsov II. According to the American aerial photograph of 24th August 1944, the four introduction points were located along a line running the length of the room in the EASTERN half. In the present notes, two of these openings are still visible at the southern end but in the WESTERN half. Nobody up to now seems to have been concerned by this contradiction, nor so have explained it. This document is important evidence of the use of Leichenkeller 1 of Krementsov II as a homicidal gas chamber.

[illegible]

Panel 2

CRIMINAL TRACES FOR KREMATORIUM III:

10. Ankleideraum/undressing room
[File BW 30/25, page 7]

¹⁰ Cited for memory, this term is more likely to refer to Krematorium II than to III in view of the date of the document. It is nevertheless necessary to mention it in respect of Krematorium III as the letter of 6th March 1943 is concerned with both - Krem. II and III KGL, BW 30 n. 39a.

11. Gas nozzles (right) door 100 x 192

«Anfrage vom 6.3.43 über Lieferung einer Gastül 100/192 für Leichenkeller 1 des Krematoriums III, BW 30a... *Journal* of 6/3/43 concerning the delivery of a gas[ul]t door 100 x 192 for corpse cellar 1 of Krematorium III, worksite 30a...»
[File 30/44, pages 49 and 50, and Annex 3 to Volume II of the Horst trial]

Letter of 31st March 1943, (already cited for Krematorium II under point 6) indicating clearly that Leichenkeller I of Krematorium III was fitted with a «gas door». While it may conceivably be possible to contest the validity of the word «Gastür» in this document, an inventory annexed to the handover document of Krematorium III dated 24th June 1943 formally states that its Leichenkeller I had a «Gasdichteltür/ gas tight door, thus again confirming beyond doubt the meaning of «Gastür».

12. **Auskleidekeller** [two rooms] / **undressing cellar**
[File BW 30/41, pages 10 and 11]

In his timesheet (already cited for Krematorium II under point 5), MESSING, a fitter employed by Topf & Sons, noted that in the week 13th to 22nd April 1943 he worked on «Bauteil 30», Krematorium III, installing the air extraction system in the «undressing cellar», according to other entries he made, in Leichenkeller 2. He indicates that «corpse cellar» 2 of Krematorium III had become an undressing cellar, as was the case in Krematorium II.

13. Flachblechen für 1 1/2 Stielk Glasurbeschläge/ flat iron bar for 1 1/2 sets of fittings for gas light doors

[File BW 30/31, incorrectly titled «Schlosserei», order of 16th April 1943. The original document is no longer in the «networking» file. It would appear that this is the only document missing, and that it has not been deliberately «mailed» but, having been issued to a member of the Auschwitz Museum for study, has not yet been returned to the Archives. Photos 14 and 15 are those of Annex 14 of Volume 11 of the Hoess trial, giving a number of extracts from the black file containing orders from the «Zentralbauleitung» to the «Schlosserei» or issued by the latter.]

Metalworking shop order of 16th April 1943 for the iron required for the fittings for 5 gas [high] doors for work sites BW 30a and 30b (Krematorium III and IV)

One order having been issued for the two Krematorien, it looks at first sight as if the number of doors destined for each cannot be established, but order 322 of the same date in the «Schlosserei WL» file makes it possible to allocate the 5 «Gastüre» 1 for Krematorium III, the 4 others for Krematorium IV.

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[illegible]

14. Beschlinge für 1 Stück Gasrohr/ fittings for 1 gas[tight] door

(Volume 11 of the Hoerr trial. Annex 15. known as "Schlossener WL", order No. 322 of 16th April 1943)

16/4/43 order 322. Kramatoun III worksite 90a. supplementary order to 1242. Subject. Filings for 1 gas door as per Order 957 and as already delivered. Operative, Murek. Completed, 20/4/43

Orders 957 and 1242 correspond to another register, preceding that of «Schlosserei WL», which was not found by the Polish or Soviet investigation commissions. Resulting from the «Schlosserei» order of 16th April 1943 for the iron required for fittings of 5 «Gasfüße», orders 122 and 123 are for the fittings for 5 gas doors: 1 for Krematorium III (322) and 4 for IV (323).

[5] | Gaslichteinz./ gas-light door=

[Photos 17 and 18]

16. 14 Brausen/14 [12L MINY] showers

14 *de Bly* 2004.3, page 241

Inventory (Petro II) annexed the handwritten document for Krematorij II dated 24th June 1943 (Photo 17), signed by the head of the Bauleitung, Bachtel, and one of his officers, Katschke [File BW 3043, page 20]. The version of this document is not known at present, it is not known whether the presence of a 'Gandschetti' in the basement is noted there, as on the verso of the handwritten document in Krematorij II. The mention of a 2-year guarantee is incorrect, two firms having refused to give such a guarantee to the Bauleitung. Messrs Topf, who built the furnaces, considered that such a period was incompatible with the planned incineration rates and the reservations expressed by the Topf engineers, who were perfectly aware of the 'abnormal' functions of the Krematorien, are quite understandable. Veding, a subcontractor for the Helta firm, responsible for the damp-proofing of the basements and 'cellars' of Krematorien II and III refused logistical reasons to give a guarantee of two years for the watertightness of these premises.

This document [note 10] is the only one known at present that proves, indirectly, the existence of a HOMICIDAL GAS CHAMBER in Leichenkeller I of Krematorium III. For the full explanation of this point, see «One proof, one single proof».

[illegible]

Page 12

J A TOPF & SOHN'S EMPLOYMENT
FORM NO. 100
Montagebestätigung

Arbeitszeitbestätigung Nr. **6458**
 Name **H. Henning**
 Montagebestätigung Nr. _____

ARBEITSZEIT-BESCHEINIGUNG

| R und 126 | I Feigpreis-Arbeit | | | | II Zeitlohn-Arbeit | | | | Bemerkungen |
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Photo 13

Protokół.

Data 22 października 1945 r. w Krakowie. Sędzia Okręgowy Sledczy Jan Lehn, Członek Główny Komisji Badania Zbrodni Niemców w Polsce, na sejmie i w obecności Osobna tejże Komisji Prokuratora ds. ds. Psychologicznego, dobowe w trybie art. 254 w związku z art. 123, 152 Kodeksu Postępowania Karnego ogłosił w sągrestora, zamieszkałego przez tychże Osobna Komisji podano ogólnie obrotu komendyacyjnego w Okazjanie, w biurze zastępczej dyrekcji budowy. ---
 ugiędny wzajemny co następuje: ---
 Regrester coloru oszarnego, oznaczony na grzbiocie napisem następującej treści: "Bestellbezeichnung der Zentralbauleitung Osm. Nr. 559-3044 Kltge. Nr. 51 - 440, 1945". W sągrestora tym ułożono a) w sągrestora chronologicznego sągrestora na wykonanie robót, adresowane do poszczególnych warstwów obrotowych. wśród nich znajdują się sągrestora następującej treści: ---
Zamówienie centralnej dyrekcji budowy z dnia 6.3.1945 r. Nr. 67, na wykonanie 64 sztuk drub dla budowy B. 50 b, c. ---
Zamówienie centralnej dyrekcji budowy z dnia 9.3.1945 r. Nr. 70, na wykonanie według załączonego rysunku okad zaimanych dla budowy B. 50 b, c. ---
Zamówienie centralnej dyrekcji budowy z dnia 8.3.1945 r. Nr. 71, na wykonanie dla krematorium /B. 50 b, c/ różnych przedmiotów zaimanych, między innymi 8 wsterek /Schmucke/, według wskazówek kierownika robót Kooha z firmy Teof i Synowie w Erfurcie. ---
Zamówienie Nr. 74 z dnia 1.3.1945 r. na wykonanie dla krematorium /B. 50 a/ siatek, według wskazówek Kooha. ---
Zamówienie Nr. 78 z dnia 11.3.1945 r. na wykonanie szalon i kantówek dla krematorium II /B. 50/, z treści którego wynika, że dla wykonania tego zamówienia należy gnieć żelazną i drucianą siatkę. ---

AN R

Photo n° 14

Zamówienie Nr. 80 z dnia 11.3.1945 r. na wykonanie dla krematorium /B. 50 b, c/ białych drzwi, według załączonego do zamówienia szkicu. ---
Zamówienie Nr. 124 z dnia 27.3.1945 r. na wykonanie dla krematorium II i III /B. 50 i 50 a/ 4 drzwi stalowych. ---
Zamówienie dwurazowe z dnia 16.4.1945 r. na sejmie, otrzymane do sporządzenia okad z 3 drzwi gniazdosznych /5 sztuk Jastirbeschlag/ dla robót B. 50 a, b. ---
Zamówienie Nr. 227 z dnia 22.5.1945 r. na wykonanie dla krematorium Nr. III /B. 50 a/ przeszklić drzwi do przesłaniania kotła. ---
 Ze tym ugiędny i protokół nieistniejący sągrestora. ---

Członek Komisji:

Prokurator:

Sędzia Okręgowy Sledczy:

/Lekarz "gohalski/

/Jan Lehn/

Protokolista:

/Kryśna Chymańska/

Z oryginałów zgodny:

Sędzia Okręgowy Sledczy.

Photo n° 15

Effektenlager

12 Stück gasdichten Türen ca 30/40 cm
[4 DÉSIGNATIONS ET COMMANDE]

livré le
22 mars 1943

livré le
4 avril 1943

Gastüren einsetzen
[2 DÉSIGNATIONS]

Gassdichten Fenster versetzen
[2 DÉSIGNATIONS]

Fußboden betonieren im Gaskammer
[2 DÉSIGNATIONS]

24 Stück Ankerschrauben für
gasdichte Türen lt. Skizze.
[COMMANDE]

Gastürenverankerungen
[COMMANDE]

4 dichte Türen mit Türfutter
[RAPPEL DE COMMANDE ET NOUVELLE COMMANDE]

Drei gasdichte Türe (Türen, Türme)
[DÉSIGNATION ET RAPPEL DE COMMANDE]

(4)/5 Stück Gastürbeschläge
[COMMANDE]

W.-Schlosserei liefert für 4 gasdichte Türen:
Die Beschläge wie bereits schon einmal geliefert.
[COMMANDE]

Fragment du plan de situation
du K.G.L. n° 2216 du 20 mars 1943
[PMO nég. n° 20583]

PLAN RÉCAPITULATIF POUR LES CRÉMATOIRES IV & V

RÉCAPITULATIF POUR CRÉMATOIRES IV AND V

Part of an overall plan of the POW camp, drawing 2216 of 30th March 1943 [PMO neg. no. 20583]

- 12 Stück gasdichte Türen ca 30/40 cm [4 MENTIONS AND 1 ORDER]
- Gassdichten Fenster versetzen [2 MENTIONS]
- Fußboden betonieren im Gaskammer [2 MENTIONS]
- Gastürenverankerungen [ORDER]
- 4 dichte Türen mit Türfutter [MENTION OF ORDER AND NEW ORDER]
- Livré officially handed over on 22nd March 1943
- Livré officially handed over on 4th April 1943
- Gastüren einsetzen [2 MENTIONS]
- 24 Stück Ankerschrauben für gasdichte Türen lt. Skizze [ORDER]
- Drei gasdichte Türe (Türen, Türme) [MENTION AND REMINDER OF ORDER]
- (4)/5 Stück Gastürbeschläge [ORDER]
- W.-Schlosserei liefert für 4 gasdichte Türen: Die Beschläge wie bereits schon einmal geliefert [ORDER]

CRIMINAL TRACES FOR KREMATORIEN IV AND V

[The criminal traces found in files BW (worksite) 30b and 30c, Krematorium IV and V respectively, are discussed together because the orders were as a rule issued for both buildings together.]

17. 12 Stück gasdichte Türen ca. 30 x 40 cm
12 gas-tight doors approx 30 x 40 [4 mentions]

[File BW 303/1, incorrectly known as «Schlosserei» (Bestellscheine des Zentral-Bauleitung, 1943), page 383]

[Photo 19]

Order of 13/243 for Krematorium IV and V of the KZ/L issued by the Central Construction Management to the woodworking shop of the Auschwitz Deutsche Ausstattungs-Werke, to be delivered on 20/243.

«Anfertigung von:
12 Stück gasdichten Türen ca 30/40 cm genau wie bereits angefertigte in der Häftlingsküchler mit Regel n Verschluss.»
«Produktion of:
12 gas-tight doors approximately 30 x 40 cm exactly as already made in the prisoners' woodworking shop, with both and each.»
Signed by the civilian employee Teschmann and countersigned by Buchhoff. Received by the DAW on 15th February 1943.

Although the word «Türen/doors» is hardly suitable for openings of 30 by 40 cm, more the size of small windows, it was nevertheless used 4 times before the civilian workers of Riedel & Sohn, who had to fit some of them in the gas chambers of Krematorium IV, began to call them more correctly «gas-tight windows». Each of the Krematoiren had 6 such windows, while their gas chambers had 7 Zyclon-B introduction openings to be fitted. This discrepancy can be explained now (see point 22. It is apparent from the three windows remaining after the dismantling of Krematorium IV and the destruction of Krematorium V, that two types of «gas-tight Fensters» were made. The first, made in accordance with the order of 13th February 1943, required TWO operations for opening or closing, while the second required only ONE. This order is the first link in a chronological chain proving the existence of gas chambers in Krematorium IV, their rooms on the west side being fitted with gas-tight doors and windows.

- 17a 12 Stück gasdichte Türen ca. 30/40 cm
[File BW 303/1, page 383a]

[Photo 20]

Version of the order of 13th February 1943

- a) Production of door fittings by the DAW WL metalworking shop of 24th February 1943 with a description of the iron used to make them [Photo 20, upper]
b) Production and assembly of the «doors» by the woodworking shop on 25th February 1943. Gas-tightness was obtained through strips of felt [File] on both door and frame, some of this material being found on the three still remaining [Photo 20, lower]

The 12 «doors» were delivered on 26th February 1943.

- 17b. Delivery note for the door fittings of 24th February 1943
[File BW 303/1, page 386]

[Photo 21]

Filled in by the DAW administrative office, this note covered the transfer of the door fittings completed by the metalworking shop to the woodworking shop where the doors were made and assembled.

BETRIEBSBURO Auschwitz, 24.2.43

WL-Schlosserei
zur Anfertigung von

~~12 Stück gasdichte Türen~~

fertigt für 12 gasdichte Türen
die Beschläge

an.
Auslieferung direkt an
WL-Tischlerei.

für: Auftrag Com.-Kr. 1045

wird genehmigt.

Monatssammelkarte Nr.

Teschmann
Betriebsleiter

(Dieser Zettel ist der betref-
fenden Monatssammelkarte an-
zuschließen.)

386

Photo n° 21

Photo 21

Auftrag

Der zentrale Beschaffungsdienst, Wehrmacht, Reichswehr, Reichswehr.

Befehlsgang:

Datum: 20. 2. 1943.

Beinhaltet: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 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1016. 1017. 1018. 1019. 1020. 1021. 1022. 1023. 1024. 1025. 1026. 1027. 1028. 1029. 1030. 1031. 1032. 1033. 1034. 1035. 1036. 1037. 1038. 1039. 1040. 1041. 1042. 1043. 1044. 1045. 1046. 1047. 1048. 1049. 1050. 1051. 1052. 1053. 1054. 1055. 1056. 1057. 1058. 1059. 1060. 1061. 1062. 1063. 1064. 1065. 1066. 1067. 1068. 1069. 1070. 1071. 1072. 1073. 1074. 1075. 1076. 1077. 1078. 1079. 1080. 1081. 1082. 1083. 1084. 1085. 1086. 1087. 1088. 1089. 1090. 1091. 1092. 1093. 1094. 1095. 1096. 1097. 1098. 1099. 1100. 1101. 1102. 1103. 1104. 1105. 1106. 1107. 1108. 1109. 1110. 1111. 1112. 1113. 1114. 1115. 1116. 1117. 1118. 1119. 1120. 1121. 1122. 1123. 1124. 1125. 1126. 1127. 1128. 1129. 1130. 1131. 1132. 1133. 1134. 1135. 1136. 1137. 1138. 1139. 1140. 1141. 1142. 1143. 1144. 1145. 1146. 1147. 1148. 1149. 1150. 1151. 1152. 1153. 1154. 1155. 1156. 1157. 1158. 1159. 1160. 1161. 1162. 1163. 1164. 1165. 1166. 1167. 1168. 1169. 1170. 1171. 1172. 1173. 1174. 1175. 1176. 1177. 1178. 1179. 1180. 1181. 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1348. 1349. 1350. 1351. 1352. 1353. 1354. 1355. 1356. 1357. 1358. 1359. 1360. 1361. 1362. 1363. 1364. 1365. 1366. 1367. 1368. 1369. 1370. 1371. 1372. 1373. 1374. 1375. 1376. 1377. 1378. 1379. 1380. 1381. 1382. 1383. 1384. 1385. 1386. 1387. 1388. 1389. 1390. 1391. 1392. 1393. 1394. 1395. 1396. 1397. 1398. 1399. 1400. 1401. 1402. 1403. 1404. 1405. 1406. 1407. 1408. 1409. 1410. 1411. 1412. 1413. 1414. 1415. 1416. 1417. 1418. 1419. 1420. 1421. 1422. 1423. 1424. 1425. 1426. 1427. 1428. 1429. 1430. 1431. 1432. 1433. 1434. 1435. 1436. 1437. 1438. 1439. 1440. 1441. 1442. 1443. 1444. 1445. 1446. 1447. 1448. 1449. 1450. 1451. 1452. 1453. 1454. 1455. 1456. 1457. 1458. 1459. 1460. 1461. 1462. 1463. 1464. 1465. 1466. 1467. 1468. 1469. 1470. 1471. 1472. 1473. 1474. 1475. 1476. 1477. 1478. 1479. 1480. 1481. 1482. 1483. 1484. 1485. 1486. 1487. 1488. 1489. 1490. 1491. 1492. 1493. 1494. 1495. 1496. 1497. 1498. 1499. 1500. 1501. 1502. 1503. 1504. 1505. 1506. 1507. 1508. 1509. 1510. 1511. 1512. 1513. 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1680. 1681. 1682. 1683. 1684. 1685. 1686. 1687. 1688. 1689. 1690. 1691. 1692. 1693. 1694. 1695. 1696. 1697. 1698. 1699. 1700. 1701. 1702. 1703. 1704. 1705. 1706. 1707. 1708. 1709. 1710. 1711. 1712. 1713. 1714. 1715. 1716. 1717. 1718. 1719. 1720. 1721. 1722. 1723. 1724. 1725. 1726. 1727. 1728. 1729. 1730. 1731. 1732. 1733. 1734. 1735. 1736. 1737. 1738. 1739. 1740. 1741. 1742. 1743. 1744. 1745. 1746. 1747. 1748. 1749. 1750. 1751. 1752. 1753. 1754. 1755. 1756. 1757. 1758. 1759. 1760. 1761. 1762. 1763. 1764. 1765. 1766. 1767. 1768. 1769. 1770. 1771. 1772. 1773. 1774. 1775. 1776. 1777. 1778. 1779. 1780. 1781. 1782. 1783. 1784. 1785. 1786. 1787. 1788. 1789. 1790. 1791. 1792. 1793. 1794. 1795. 1796. 1797. 1798. 1799. 1800. 1801. 1802. 1803. 1804. 1805. 1806. 1807. 1808. 1809. 1810. 1811. 1812. 1813. 1814. 1815. 1816. 1817. 1818. 1819. 1820. 1821. 1822. 1823. 1824. 1825. 1826. 1827. 1828. 1829. 1830. 1831. 1832. 1833. 1834. 1835. 1836. 1837. 1838. 1839. 1840. 1841. 1842. 1843. 1844. 1845. 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18 Gas(d)ichtfenster versetzen/ fit gas-tight windows [1st mention]
[File BW 30/28, page 73]

[Photos 22 and 23]

The civilian firm Riedel & Son of Bieleitz participated in the construction of Krematorium IV and V. One of its foremen, in his timesheet for Sunday 28th February 1942, concerning «Einschönerunganlage 4» [=cremation installation or Krematorium IV], indicates under «work done», point 5, «Gas(d)ichtfenster versetzen/fit gas-tight windows». The lack of labels for certain rooms on the definitive plan of Krematorium IV means that the Riedel foreman had to use general terms for the places where his men were working. For example, on 25th, 26th and 27th February, the future morgue/undressing room, nearing completion, was referred to as «die grosse Raum/the big room». On 28th, the work was in the eastern part of the building (explicitly mentioned) and in the western part (as can be deduced from the work carried out on succeeding days).

| Tagesleistungen | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Position | Art und Menge der geleisteten Arbeiten |
| 1. | Weitere Fortsetzung mit Arbeit an den verputzten, sich. Treppen ausklopfen |
| 2. | Dachbinder über d. Ofen verankern |
| 3. | Zementfußboden im Hohlraum vorb. |
| 4. | Dachstuhlputzwerk vergemauert |
| 5. | Gas(d)ichtfenster versetzen |
| 6. | Fußboden im neuen Ofenraum betonen |
| 7. | Brennungsdienst überbrückt |

BW 30/28

6. 4. 1942

Photo n° 23

Photo 23

| Tagesbericht | | Datum | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Riedel & Sohn Bieleitz | | 6. 4. 1942 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Arbeiter und Stundenzahl | | Verarbeitete Baustoffe | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Arbeiterzahl</th> <th>Stundenzahl</th> <th>Arbeitszeit</th> <th>Arbeitszeit</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>8</td> <td>8</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>9</td> <td>9</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>11</td> <td>11</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>12</td> <td>12</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>13</td> <td>13</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>14</td> <td>14</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>15</td> <td>15</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>17</td> <td>17</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>18</td> <td>18</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td> <td>19</td> <td>19</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td> <td>20</td> <td>20</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td> <td>21</td> <td>21</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td> <td>22</td> <td>22</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>23</td> <td>23</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>24</td> <td>24</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>25</td> <td>25</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td> <td>26</td> <td>26</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>27</td> <td>27</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td> <td>28</td> <td>28</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td> <td>29</td> <td>29</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td>30</td> <td>30</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | Arbeiterzahl | Stundenzahl | Arbeitszeit | Arbeitszeit | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>in ungenutzter Arbeitszeit</th> <th>in ungenutzter Arbeitszeit</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | in ungenutzter Arbeitszeit | in ungenutzter Arbeitszeit | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 16 | 16 | 17 | 17 | 18 | 18 | 19 | 19 | 20 | 20 | 21 | 21 | 22 | 22 | 23 | 23 | 24 | 24 | 25 | 25 | 26 | 26 | 27 | 27 | 28 | 28 | 29 | 29 | 30 | 30 |
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| Tagesleistungen | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Art und Menge der geleisteten Arbeiten | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Weitere Fortsetzung mit Arbeit an den verputzten, sich. Treppen ausklopfen
2. Dachbinder über d. Ofen verankern
3. Zementfußboden im Hohlraum vorb.
4. Dachstuhlputzwerk vergemauert
5. Gas(d)ichtfenster versetzen
6. Fußboden im neuen Ofenraum betonen
7. Brennungsdienst überbrückt | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BW 30/28 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Bemerkungen: | | Unterschrift des Tagesberichts | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Riedel & Sohn
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| * ungenutzte Arbeitszeit bedarf weiterer schriftlicher Vereinbarung. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Photo 22

20. Gas[s]chloßmünster versetzen [2nd mention] fit gas-tight windows
[File BW 30/28, pages 61]

[Photos 26, 27, 28]

File BW 30/28 contains 81 pages that are separated into two parts. The first, pages 1 to 42, contains the time-sheets of the HLTA foreman Kofke for the construction of the shells of Krematorium III[IV] and IV[V] from 9th November 1942 to 23rd January 1943, then Krematorium III[IV] from 25th January to 21st February 1943. The second, pages 43 to 21, summarizes the continuation of this work until completion of Krematorium IV and V, from 23rd January to 10 April 1943. The initial time-sheets show work started on by Kofke and are signed by foreman Kofke and countersigned by the SS in charge of the work-site. The recapitulatory part, however, is in the form of a book of handwritten sheets, written in green ink [pages 44 to 75], and does not contain the name of either the foreman or the author. Its text reproduces exactly that of the RIEDEL & SON "Tagebuch", supplemented by progress reports on the construction of the chimneys by Messrs KOEHLER [established by comparison with file BW 30/28]. This notebook, of unknown origin and authorship, has to be authenticated as it could have been written after the liberation of the camp.

It is necessary to prove that the notebook itself is of the period and that the text is not simply a straight copy of known documents. The paper itself was printed in 1935, as the foot of one page in this text is the inscription "G 4 Wirsenerhaus-Buchdruckerei Kassel" (1935). On A 4 doppelé [Photo 29]. This type of sheet may have been common and used by anybody. In 1945, the French military legal service were trying to prove the existence of a gas number in KL Natzweiler (the concentration camp at Struthof), and found a construction diary for the period 20th May to 28th August 1943 [Photo 34] containing a page [Photo 27], dated 1st August and signed by SS Second Lieutenant Heider, chief of the camp Baubüro, recording work carried out in a gas chamber and mentioning "Gasraum" three times and "Gasraum-mess" once. A photographic reproduction of this page, undoubtedly damning evidence, was presented in the album "CAMP DE CONCENTRATION STRUTHOF", published by the office of Captain Jadin, examining judge to the Military Tribunal of the 3rd Zone at Strasbourg. The greater part of this work, which is no longer obtainable, was republished with the addition of documents and comments in March 1985 in order to remove any ambiguity concerning the operation of this gas chamber in "L'ALBUM DU STRUTHOF". Introduction and notes by Jean-Claude Pécus, The Brette Klarfeld Foundation. This page has at the bottom the same inscription as is found on those of the recapitulatory notebook of file BW 30/28, which indicates that the "Construction Management" of concentration camps such as Auschwitz and Natzweiler used this type of paper. As for the text of BW 30/28 there are differences as compared with BW 30/28. In addition to the work carried out by Riedel, there is that done by Koehler, and on the days when the latter is at work, the labour figures are higher than those shown on the Riedel time-sheets and correspond to the total persons employed by the two firms. However, as file BW 30/28 also contains the "Tagebuch Zeitungsnummern" for Messrs Koehler, showing the number of people engaged and the work carried out, written in exactly the same way as those mentioned in the notebook of BW 30/28, it might be thought that we simply have a copy with an original value. This assumption is not so justified as it appears, however, for the author of the notebook had to add up the labour figures, and recorded only the main details of the work carried out by Koehler. There is a clear difference in the case of the electrical work, for while there are no other descriptions in any of the files BW 30/25 to 30/43 conserved in the PMO Archives (compare Photos 22 and 34 where on the left the labour figures have been reversed and the following additional text appears [lines 16-20], "Stromen und putzen bei Elektriker" and bei Oskar Pfisterer legen die Platten für die elektrischen und lay ribs by the furnace). This establishes the authenticity of the notebook.

The timesheet for 28th February 1943 reads [lines 14 and 15 of Photo 26] "Gas[s]chloßmünster versetzen fit gas-tight windows". It should be noted that even the spelling mistake, "Gas[s]" instead of "Gass", has been copied.

[Photos 29 and 30]

21. betonieren im Gas[s]kammer [2nd mention]
[File BW 30/28, pages 62 and 63]

The daily report for 2nd March 1943 reads [Photo 29 line 28 and photo 30 line 1] "und Fußboden betonieren im Gas[s]kammer/und concrete floor in gas chambers". This same mistake is again copied.

22. 4 gas-tight Tür-4 gas-tight doors
[Order No 2261/100/17 of 18th January 1943 for Krematorium IV - NOT FOUND]

That there was an order of 18th January 1943 for 4 gas-tight doors for Krematorium IV is established by two documents that mention it. Order 109 [Photo 32] of 19th February 1943 of the "Schlosserei WL" file and the letter of 31st March 1943 [Photos 33 and 34] of Annex 3 to Volume 11 of the Hoesa letter. The original has not yet been found.

This "phantom" document is not "conclusive" proof of the existence of homicidal gas chambers in Krematorium IV, but it helps us to understand and establish how they were planned, built and used.

Contrary to what I said in my article on "Les Krematorien IV et V de Buchenwald" in "Le Monde Juif", the three documents cited above [Photos 32, 33 and 34] together with Krematorium IV drawings 1678 of 14th August 1942 and 20th of 11th January 1943 enable us to state that KREMATORIEN IV AND V WERE DESIGNED AS CRIMINAL INSTRUMENTS, though modifications introduced in the course of their construction and operation made their operating sequences absurd.

Krematorium II was used criminally with two different operating sequences. For one or two works (in March 1943 as recorded in Henryk Tauber's victims book the following route: external undressing but [in the north yard], underground gas chamber [Leichen Keller 1], ground floor furnace room. No room had been planned for the storage of corpses (though the "Waschräume" on the ground floor used for this purpose as a strip gap measured). The gas chamber itself assumed this function, which was that [or which it was originally planned. Subsequently, after the temporary hut had been dismantled, the victims took the route that was to become "normal" for Krematorium II and III: underground undressing room [Leichen Keller 2], underground gas chamber [Leichen Keller 1] and the ground floor furnace room.

The Bauleitung produced only two drawings for Krematorium IV, valid also for Krematorium V. Comparing these drawings with the "Schlosserei WL" orders reveals the following evolution:

Preliminary project: based on drawing 1678 of 14th August 1942, showing only the furnace room with two (twisted 4 muffle) incineration furnaces and its associated rooms on the eastern side, connected through a salubrious lock to a large gas chamber of undetermined length. I state that this incomplete room is a gas chamber (and not a morgue, which by definition has to be kept cool) in order to explain the presence of a stove and a buffer tank between this room and the furnace room. The flue from the stove runs underground in the chimney of one of the two 4-muffle furnaces. This incomplete preliminary project could have been completed by an undressing room in the western part, so that its functioning would have been in a straight line running west to east. It was abandoned for unknown reasons that I would assume were connected with the risk of accidental poisoning in the furnace room due to the natural ventilation of the gas chamber.

First design: based on drawing 2036 of 11th January 1943, the orders of 18th January and 19th March 1943 for FOUR gas-tight doors and that of 13th February 1943 for 12 gas-tight windows for BOTH Krematorium IV and V (SIDX per building).

The drawing shows that the two rooms on the west side are gas chambers, for they each have a stove and require, to be made gas-tight, 4 doors (two per room) and 6 windows (3 per room), one being INSIDE the corridor giving access to the chambers, unlike the five others that are on the outside. The victims would take the route: gas chamber 1 (OR gas chamber 2, corridor, vestibule, morgue [central room] and linen room. This sequence is linear, thus LOKAL.

In industrial terms, 2 manufacturing units (gas chambers 1 and 2) alternately supply a product (corpses) to be held in a store (morgue) while waiting to be consumed [in the incineration furnaces]. In human terms, people walk in on their own (two feet in the western end of Krematorium IV and go out in the form of smoke from the chimneys at the eastern end).

The position of the two gas chambers and their corridor, at the western end, permits natural ventilation without danger to the people working in the morgue or the furnace room. But the building has no undressing room. The victims have to get undressed outside. The Bauleitung could alleviate this problem by erecting a stable type - but for this purpose on the other side of the "Ringschleifung road", just opposite Ki IV.

Second design: based on the letter of 31st March 1943 and the testimony of S. Dragun with the creation of a gas-tight unit comprising the two gas chambers AND the corridor. Three doors and six or seven windows are required to make a gas-tight. By adding the possibility of using the morgue as an undressing room, the following sequence is obtained: entry through the vestibule, undressing room [central room], vestibule, western end of the two gas chambers and corridor, vestibule, morgue [central room] and furnace room. The route is no longer linear and the operating sequence has become totally illogical, the argument I maintained in my article.

According to a photograph of Krematorium IV in the *'Auschwitz Album'*, a gas-tight door was fitted in the corridor to give direct access from the outside, without having to pass through the vestibule. This additional door, visible on a photograph taken in May or June 1944 must be connected with the third design proposed for Krematorium IV and V.

Third design: based on the testimony and drawing of S. Dragan and the ruins of Krematorium V. This design was adopted for Krematorium V and perhaps also for Krematorium IV. It was imposed by the need to be able to gas small groups of victims and by inadequate Zyklon-B supplies. A fourth gas chamber was created in the western end by dividing the corridor in two in the proportion 1:2 [visible in the ruins of Krematorium V]. Four gas chambers, each of which had to be gas-tight, required six doors (or seven including the external door of the corridor) with seven openings for pouring Zyklon-B. The ruins of Krematorium IV give no indication as to whether a fourth gas chamber was installed there.

My initial explanation was mistaken because I tried to explain the design of Krematorium IV and V on the basis of their final states and the modifications that had taken place in the basements of Krematorium II and III, modifications that were clearly apparent from a comparison of contemporary drawings and photographs and the existing ruins.

Other facts demonstrate the great variations in the internal arrangement of the Krematorium:

the gas chamber [Leichenkeller I] of Krematorium II was divided in two in order to be able to treat small groups of people unfit for work (in 1944, according to Henryk Tauber). It is not known whether Krematorium III was also modified in this way;

in the summer of 1944, [five] cremation ditches were dug in the precincts of Krematorium V because the furnaces were out of use. This resulted in the operating sequence being reversed with respect to the original design and running from east to west: vestibule, undressing room [central room], gas chambers, incineration ditches. In good weather, the victims undressed outside before entering the gas chambers. In line with the initial design (photographic evidence, the three 'Polish resistance' photos).

There remain a number of unclear points regarding the orders for gas-tight doors for Krematorium IV and V. While it would appear that the last 'gas doors' were fitted in Krematorium V on 16th and 17th April 1943, i.e. twelve and thirteen days AFTER official acceptance of the building, the orders of 16th June 1943 for iron for fittings for Krematorium IV and V and for fittings for 4 gas-tight doors for Krematorium IV, then on 17th April the order from the Krematorium maintenance service for 4 new doors, again for Krematorium IV cannot be explained in the light of present knowledge. It could be that the first type of door proved unsatisfactory and the SS wanted to make them easier to handle, or stronger, or make other modifications, as had already been done with the gas-tight windows, where two different models were produced.

23. Gaskaten verankeringen 210 Stk/ 210 anchors for gas-tight doors
[File BW 40/26, page 68, line 8]

[Photo 31]

Order for Krematorium IV, issued during the interior fitting out by Riedel & Son, dated 15th February 1943 [and not 1942 as seems to be written] requesting among other things 210 anchors for fixing the gas-tight doors. Issued one month after the order for four gas-tight doors, two days after that for 12 gas-tight doors (ca 30/40 cm) and thirteen days before these 'doors' [windows] were fitted, this note is directly connected with these orders and is good additional evidence in 'Gas' for Krematorium IV.

Registre des constructions

pour les nouvelles constructions Camp de concentration
à Natzwiller, Alsace

du 20 mai 1943

au 28 août 1943

Photo n° 26

Bautagebuch

für den Neubau

Konzentrationslager
im Waldgebiet, Elsass

Vom: 20.5.1943

bis: 28.8.1943

TAGESBERICHT ÜBER DEN BAUFORTSCHRITT/ RAPPORT JOURNALIER SUR L'AVANCEMENT DES CONSTRUCTIONS

- [4ème ligne:] Macon 10(h). Administr. Struthof - Travaux dans chambre à gaz ["Gasraum"] (s-a n° 187)
[11ème ligne:] CONVIER 5(h) Administr. : Struthof - Chambre à gaz ["Gaszimmer"]; prolonger l'usage d'évacuation, placer 1 collime d'attache l'a-a n° 187).
[20ème ligne:] Machover
[21ème ligne:] Pointers 60(h) Administr. Travaux dans bâtiment de l'administration (s-a n° 137) et chambre à gaz ["Gasraum"]
[22ème ligne:] Macon 40(h) Administr. Struthof - Travaux dans chambre à gaz ["Gasraum"] (s-a n° 187)

Photo 26

Photo n° 22

| Datum | Tagesbericht über den Baubetrieb | Bemerkungen |
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| <u>Samstag</u> 18. Mai 43 | Der 18. Mai ist ein Sonntag. Der 19. Mai ist ein Montag. Der 20. Mai ist ein Dienstag. Der 21. Mai ist ein Mittwoch. Der 22. Mai ist ein Donnerstag. Der 23. Mai ist ein Freitag. Der 24. Mai ist ein Samstag. Der 25. Mai ist ein Sonntag. Der 26. Mai ist ein Montag. Der 27. Mai ist ein Dienstag. Der 28. Mai ist ein Mittwoch. Der 29. Mai ist ein Donnerstag. Der 30. Mai ist ein Freitag. Der 31. Mai ist ein Samstag. Der 1. Juni ist ein Sonntag. Der 2. Juni ist ein Montag. Der 3. Juni ist ein Dienstag. Der 4. Juni ist ein Mittwoch. Der 5. Juni ist ein Donnerstag. Der 6. Juni ist ein Freitag. Der 7. Juni ist ein Samstag. Der 8. Juni ist ein Sonntag. Der 9. Juni ist ein Montag. Der 10. Juni ist ein Dienstag. Der 11. Juni ist ein Mittwoch. Der 12. Juni ist ein Donnerstag. Der 13. Juni ist ein Freitag. Der 14. Juni ist ein Samstag. Der 15. Juni ist ein Sonntag. Der 16. Juni ist ein Montag. Der 17. Juni ist ein Dienstag. Der 18. Juni ist ein Mittwoch. Der 19. 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Photo 22

Translation of part of Photos 26 and 27:

[Photo 26]

Construction diary

For the new construction Concentration camp at Natzweiler,
Alsace

From 20th May 1943
To 28th August 1943

[Photo 27]

TAGESBERICHT ÜBER DEN BAUBETRIEB/
DAILY REPORT ON BUILDING WORK

[line 4] Bricklayer 10 (h) Administrator Struthof - Work on the gas chamber
[line 16] Roofer 5 (h) [Garaum] (2-3 on drug 187)
Administrator Struthof - gas chamber [Gaskammer] -
extended the extraction duct, fit 1 supporting
bracket (2-3 drug 187)
[line 20] Labour
[line 21] Painter 60 (h) Administrator Work in the administration building
[line 22] Bricklayer 40 (h) Administrator Struthof - Work in the gas chamber
[Garaum] (2-3 on drug 187)

[illegible]

Photo 22

[illegible]

1986-87

[illegible]

Figure 2

Translation:

19/24/3 No 109 POW camp worksite 30b [Krematorium IV]
Subject: 4 light doors, with lining - in accordance with Construction Management instructions. Dimensions 100 x 205 cm as per Order 2261/80/17 of 18th January 1943 issued by the Construction Management. Order transferred from the former prisoners' metalworking shop.

This order might be thought perfectly normal, since it is simply for «light doors», but in fact criminal and requests «4 [gas]dichte Türen» The letter of 31st March 1943 [Photo 33] is mainly concerned with the non-execution of this order, originally classified 2261/80/17 of 18th January 1943 and recalls that they are gas-tight doors. The number of doors has been reduced to three, a change explained by the emergency method of using Krematorium IV. While fifteen days elapsed between the gas-tight windows being ordered and their being fitted in Krematorium IV, the order for the doors, issued a month earlier, was still not executed. Furthermore, the letter of 31st March 1943 proves that almost another month and a half had passed and the situation remained unchanged. It must be observed that the transfer of orders from the former prisoners' metalworking shop to that of the DAW was slow. As Krematorium IV was handed over on 22nd March and on the 31st March its gas-tight doors were still not ready, it can be concluded that it was not yet operational when it was accepted and only became so much later. It may be that the doors fitted in Krematorium V on 16th and 17th April were those ordered for Krematorium IV, which would explain the new orders for Krematorium IV issued on 16th April.

[Türen Annex 3 (page 61) of Volume II (microfilm 205) of the Hoess trial certified as authentic copy by the Polish examining judge Jan Sehn.

Für die File BW 30/34, page 49 First carbon copy of the letter of 31st March 1943. No 26171/43.

containing the word «Türschloß» twice.

Türen File BW 30/34, page 50 Second «corrected» carbon copy, with one of the two «Türme» changed to «Türen».]

Letter of 31st March 1943, signed by SS Major Brischhoff, drafted and countersigned by SS Second Lieutenant Kirschnech, addressed to the DAW and relating to Order 2261/80/17 of 18th January 1943 for BW 30b [Krematorium IV]. Only the first paragraph concerns this order.

Translation

In reply to the above letter [of 24th March 1943], it is confirmed that three gas-tight doors are to be made for worksites 30b [Krematorium IV] and 30c [Krematorium V] in accordance with the order of 18th January 1943, exactly of the same dimensions and pattern as the doors supplied previously.

The subject of the letter is an order for Krematorium IV, while the first paragraph attributes it to Krematorium IV AND V. The singular article «das» used to cover buildings 30b and 30c demonstrates the habit of those involved in the building of Krematorium IV and V referring to them as a single job or worksite to be distinguished from that of Krematorium II and III, again generally regarded as a unit. This practice arose because of the different nature of the two pairs of buildings. The three gas-tight doors were to make gas-tight the entire unit comprising the two rooms and corridor in the western part of Krematorium IV. Certain revisions arose to explain this order for «drei gasdichte Türen» [for the premises called «Gas[um]kammer» and fitted with «Gas[um]dichtfenster»] as being connected with the installation of DISINFECTANT [sic] gas chambers in Krematorium IV, supposedly to treat the clothing of the dead lying in the morgue (central room of the building). We may then ask what was the purpose of the three disinfection enclosures and the four Topf box air disinfection chambers, or ovens in the Zentral-Salle, located only 110 metres away. Some of those who refuse to admit the existence of homicidal gas chambers for large-scale operation, unable to provide any reasonable explanation for this avalanche of prefixes in «Gas» in the western part of Krematorium IV, attributed the possibility of «sufflings» (small-scale, isolated gassings), but as this suggestion was contrary to the dogma of the non-existence of homicidal gas chambers and to the doctrine of the high priests of France, they subsequently rallied to the «disinfection» version.

Zeichnung 3 24.3.43
Sl. Nr. 1343.

26171/43/3a/3b/3c.

«Türschloß» auftrag 2261/80/17 vom 18.1.43 für 30 b

«Türschloß» auftrag 2261/80/17, Nr. 26171 - 43 -

«Türschloß» auftrag.

«Türschloß»

«Türschloß» auftrag

«Türschloß»

«Türschloß» auftrag

«Türschloß» auftrag 2261/80/17 vom 18.1.43 für 30 b und 30 c
«Türschloß» auftrag 2261/80/17, Nr. 26171 - 43 -
«Türschloß» auftrag.

«Türschloß» auftrag 2261/80/17 vom 18.1.43 für 30 b und 30 c
«Türschloß» auftrag 2261/80/17, Nr. 26171 - 43 -
«Türschloß» auftrag.

«Türschloß» auftrag 2261/80/17 vom 18.1.43 für 30 b und 30 c
«Türschloß» auftrag 2261/80/17, Nr. 26171 - 43 -
«Türschloß» auftrag.

«Türschloß» auftrag 2261/80/17 vom 18.1.43 für 30 b und 30 c
«Türschloß» auftrag 2261/80/17, Nr. 26171 - 43 -
«Türschloß» auftrag.

Der Leiter der Inspektion
des Auftrags- und Polizei-Anschlusses
/-/ Minister
des Auftrags-Anschlusses

«Türschloß»

«Türschloß» auftrag

«Türschloß» auftrag

«Türschloß» auftrag

«Türschloß» auftrag

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Nr. 26171 - 43 -

1.

18/11 1957 2.0.0.

Vorteilhaft Auftrags 2061/30/17 vom 12.1.57, wo die
 ... schreiben von 27.1.57, Nr. 10.0.0. = ...
 ...

...
 ...

... 10.0.0.

... auf ... schreiben vom 18.1.57, dass
 ... des Auftrages von 12.1.57
 für das Ba 30 b und 30 c auszuführen sind, genau nach
 den Anweisungen und der Art der bisher angelieferten
 ...

Bei dieser Gelegenheit wird an einem mit ...
 ... über Lieferung einer Dose 120/100
 für ... aller I des Kreislagers III, Ba 30 a, ...
 ... nach Art und Maß der ... der ...
 ... Kreislagers II mit ...
 ... mit ...
 ... als besondere ...
 ...

... mit ... von 27.1.57 für Ba 30 b ...
 ... nicht ...
 ...

Die vorbereiteten ...
 ...

Der ... der ...
 der ... auf ...

...
 ...

Vorteilhaft

...
 ...
 ...

...

2.

18/11 1957 2.0.0.

...
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...
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 ...

... 10.0.0.

... auf ... schreiben vom 18.1.57, dass
 ... des Auftrages von 12.1.57
 für das Ba 30 b und 30 c auszuführen sind, genau nach
 den Anweisungen und der Art der bisher angelieferten
 ...

Bei dieser Gelegenheit wird an einem mit ...
 ... über Lieferung einer Dose 120/100
 für ... aller I des Kreislagers II, Ba 30 a, ...
 ... nach Art und Maß der ... der ...
 ... Kreislagers I mit ...
 ... mit ...
 ... als besondere ...
 ...

... mit ... von 27.1.57 für Ba 30 b ...
 ... nicht ...
 ...

Die vorbereiteten ...
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Der ... der ...
 der ... auf ...

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Vorteilhaft

...
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...

The only criticism that can be levelled at this evidence is the fact that it was disseminated after the war in the form of a copy authenticated by the examining judge Jan Sehn. He is responsible for having certified as conforming with the original a text that was not an exact copy, or to put it more crudely, to having given legal status to an untrue copy.

But what could «three gas-tight TOWERS» mean? Apparently nothing in the context of either the normal or the criminal use of Krematorien IV and V. In the known Banleitungs correspondence about these Krematorien the word «Türme» is never used. In relation to the existing documents concerning Krematorium IV it does not fit in with any aspect of the shell or of the roofing or of the internal arrangements. Furthermore, the person who typed this letter was not its author. The error results from the copying of a written draught or dictation notes. There was a *lapsus calami*. Jan Sehn was quite right to replace «Türme» by «Türe(n)», particularly as Order 109 of 18th January 1943 fully confirms the correction. Without wishing to criticize Jan Sehn in any way, I consider that, though he could perhaps not have foreseen the importance that this document would one day have as «material evidence», he should have indicated the reason for making the change before signing at the bottom of the copy. However, in the years 1945-47 during which evidence was collected for the Hoess trial, all the witnesses, SS and prisoners, were still alive, their memories intact and the facts so obvious that Jan Sehn would not be able to understand my remarks about these two pieces of evidence.

Lastly, we do not know who corrected «Türme» to «Türen». If the document was found (but corrected), this should have been explicitly stated and legally noted, since otherwise doubts inevitably remain regarding this hand-written change.

These two «original documents» are in fact but carbon copies of the real original which has not been found. This may explain why only one of the four occurrences of «Türme» has been corrected, the carbons being kept simply for the files.

26. Flacheisen für (4)5 Stück Gasdurbeschläge/ 1 ton bar for (4)5 sets of gas[tight] door fittings [Photos 14 and 15]
[File BW 30/31, «Schlosserei» order of 16th April 1943]

Mention of the order of 16th April 1943 (see point 13), requesting the iron bar needed to produce the fittings for 5 gas[tight] doors for workshops 30a and 30b (Krematorien II and IV). Four of these doors were for Krematorium IV. The discrepancy between the 3 doors of the order of 18th January 1943 and the 4 of 16th April 1943 is only apparent and is explained according to the premises to be made gas-tight: the entire western part of Krematorium IV (3 doors), or the two main rooms, and excluding the corridor (4 doors) or the entire western part with an additional door giving direct access to the corridor from outside [photographic evidence page 205 of «L'Album d'Anis Hevri» published by Seuff] (4 doors). The following order is the logical counterpart of this one for it concerns the gas-tight door fittings to be made with this iron

27. für 4 gasdichte Türen/for 4 gas-tight doors:WL Schlosserei liefert für 4 gasdichte Türen
Die beschläge via bereits schon einmal geliefert WL metalworking shop to supply for 4 gas-tight doors:
Fittings as already once supplied.
[Annex 15 to Volume II of the Hoess trial, or report of 24th July 1945 on the «Schlosserei WL», Order 323 of 16th April 1943]

Translation

16/4/43 No 323 KGL BW 30b (POW camp (Brückenhof) Krematorium IV)
Subject: The WL metalworking shop to supply for 4 gas-tight doors: fittings as already once supplied. The doors will be made in Hall II and the fittings are to be delivered there.
Operative: Mirek Completed: 20/4/43.

Krematorium IV having been officially handed over on 22nd March 1944, it would appear that the gas chamber doors were delivered and no doubt fitted almost a month after acceptance. Similarly, the gas-tight doors for Krematorium V were fitted twelve days after official completion.

28. 24 Ankerschrauben für gasdichte Türen II. Skizze/ 24 anchor bolts for gas tight doors as per sketch [Photo 3a]
[Annex 15 to Volume II of the Hoess trial, «Schlosserei WL» Order 280 of 6th April 1943]

Translation

6/4/43 No 280 Central Construction Management, POW camp Krematorium 4 (IV) and 5 (V) BW 30b and 30c
Subject: 24 anchor bolts for gas-tight doors as per sketch On order. Manufacture and delivery Delivery date: 10/4/43. Construction Management Order No 149 of 3rd April 1943.
Operative: Wrubel. Completed: 9/4/43

As the file for this order cannot be consulted, we do not know the location of the anchoring points of the number per door. It is in fact doubtful whether this would be shown on the sketch, which is more likely to show a single fixing bolt.

29. Gasüren einsetzen/ fit gas[tight] doors [2 mentions] [Photo 3f]
[File BW 30/36, page 27]

On Friday 16th and Saturday 17th April 1943, foreman Zeitelmann, employed by the civilian firm HUTA of Katowice, entered on his timesheets/daily reports 167 and 168 the fitting of «Gasüren/gas doors» in Krematorium V, although the latter had been officially accepted on 4th April. The precise text describing the work done by six men (including SS sergeant Lugert, in charge of the work-site) during the two days was:

«Fenstergerüst einsetzen, Entwässerung(sarbeiten) und Gasüren einsetzen/Fit window bars, drainage (work) and fit gas doors»

These handwritten daily reports, despite their brevity, constitute the only material evidence of the installation of gas chambers in Krematorium V and give an exact date for the beginning of their existence: 16th April 1943.

[Supplementary traces (Krematorien II and III):

30. Der [Leichen]keller 1 mit der Abfuhr aus den Räumen der 3 Saugungsanlagen vorgewärmt wird/ The [corpse] cellar 1 will be preheated with the exhaust air from the room with the 3 forced draft installations [Photo 4]
[File BW 30/25, page 7]

31. Die Warmluftzuführungsanlage für den Leichenkeller I/ The hot air supply installation for Leichenkeller I
[File BW 30/25, page 8 for Photo see Document 39 Part II, Chapter 5]

Heating a mortuary is nonsensical. The extracts from these two letters are criminal traces of capital importance.

32. **Beschläge für gasdichte Tür/ fittings for gas-tight door**
[Annex 15 to Volume 11 of the Hirsch trial, «Schlösser WL» Order 516 of 17th June 1943]

[Photo 30]

Translation

17/6/43 No 516 Administration V 4 [Birkenau Krematorium].
 Metalworking shop producing fittings for gas-tight door as per Orders 1893 and 2085. Hall II has the main order
 If necessary, consult foreman Mullebach
 Administration V 4 Order No 148 of 7th May 1943
 Operative: Mirek. Completed: 10/6/43.

This order was issued by the Birkenau Krematorium maintenance service, but does not mention the destination of the fittings.
 In view of the date, a new door was probably being fitted to replace a faulty or damaged one

33. **1 Schlüssel für Gaskammer/ 1 key for gas chamber**
[Annex 15 to Volume 11 of the Hirsch trial, «Schlösser WL» Order 600 of 12th July 1943]

[Photo 30]

Translation:

12/7/43 No 600 Krematorium-Administration
 Subject: 1 key, for gas chamber.
 Report in SS captain of the SS hospital pharmacy
 BMD administration Order No 87 Block of 9th July 1943.
 Operative: Ciodenkl. Completed: 13/7/43.

This order can be regarded as the very model of a dubious «trace». Issued by the Krematorium maintenance service, this request for the production of a key for a gas chamber might be understandable, but the destination Krematorium is not known. The order to report to the pharmacist of the SS hospital and the mention of a «Block» make the order incomprehensible with our present state of knowledge. There was, and perhaps still is, exhibited on the first floor of Block 14 (Soviet Pavilion), a key used for a Zyclon-B store, but the doors in the homicidal gas chambers of the crematoriums were not fitted with locks.

34. **Die Beschläge zu 1 Tür mit Rahmen, luftdicht mit Spion für Gaskammer/
 The fittings for 1 door with frame, air-tight with peephole for gas chamber**
[Annex 15 to Volume 11 of the Hirsch trial, «Schlösser WL» Order 459 of 20th May 1943]

[Photo 30]

Translation

28/5/43 No 459 Desinfestation Chamber Auschwitz concentration camp [i.e. main camp, NOT Birkenau]
 Subject:
 1. Fittings for one door and frame, air-tight with peephole for gas chamber.
 2. Last door. Capo Kühne knows about this.
 Administration V 4 Order No 158/2 and 2a of 25th January 1943
 Operative: Mirek. Completed: 10/6/43.

This order has nothing to do with the Birkenau Krematorium, but was destined for one of the disinfection gas chambers of the main camp, probably the one in Block 1.

The text of this order was used by R. Faurisson in his little work «Réponse à Pierre Vidal-Naquet» [page 80, Second (enlarged) Edition, La Vieille Taupe, 1982] in his argument aimed at demonstrating that the «Gas(k)ammer of Krematorium IV were nothing but ordinary «disinfection (sic) gas chambers».

This document is not part of the incriminating evidence, but is presented simply to show the care that must be taken in using the original documents.

CONCLUSION

Summarizing, a study of the files concerning the construction of the four Birkenau Krematorien reveals 39 (THIRTY NINE) «dps» or «crucial traces» of different sorts, the majority of which constitute material proof of the intention to make certain rooms IN THE FOUR KREMATORIEN «Gasdichte» or gas-tight. The incompatibility between a gas-tight door and 14 shower heads indirectly proves the use of one of these rooms as a HOMICIDAL GAS CHAMBER. There can no longer be any contestation or denial of the existence of homicidal gas chambers at Birkenau in view of such an accumulation of written indications on a subject that was supposed to remain secret but became an open secret throughout all of what was then Upper Silesia.

5.6.43. - - - - -
 17.6.43. Fr. 516. Verwaltung V 4. Schlosserei - Fertigtur fertigen
 an Beschläge für geschloßte Tür wie unter Com. Nr. 1095 und 2005 ge-
 liefert Hauptauftrag mit Kalle II. /Notfalls Rücknahme mit Meis-
 ger Kallenstein/. Bestellchein Nr. 160 der Verwaltung V 4 vom 7.5.43.
 V. Kamenovskij Minsk. Undoznoset 10.6.43. - - - - -
 18.6.43. Fr. 546. Elektrobelone der Zentralbeleuchtung. - Baum um das
 Krematorium III im K.G.L. Nr. 24-K.G.L. 2 Stück In-elenzverschlässe
 aus Eisenblech 10. Größe Nr. 1-2 Stück Eisenverschlässe wie
 oben aber mit einer Befestigungskette auf der Rückwand. Lieferzeit
 10.7.43. Bauteil. Auftrag Nr. 142 vom 14.6.43. V. Kamenovskij Dytar.
 Undoznoset 1.7.43. - - - - -
 18.7.43. Fr. 566. Krematorium-Verwaltung. Friedhöfe 1 dahlbael.
 für Gustavsk. /bei der auf der Apotheke im 44-lever/. re-
 schellchein der Verwaltung BMD Nr. 87 dahlbael vom 9.7.43. V. Kamenovskij
 Jodereki. Undoznoset 1.7.43. - - - - -
 21.7.43. Fr. 586. Krematorium III im K.G.L. 30 m. Friedhöfe: 2
 dahlbael anstelle, welche im Krematorium III 10 m die Eisen-
 teile an 10. übertragungsstellen montieren sollen. Lieferzeit sofort
 28.7.43. Bauteil. Auftrag Nr. 411 vom 14.7.43. V. Kamenovskij Kozlovskij.
 Undoznoset 6.8.43. - - - - -
 13.8.43. Fr. 706. Baum um die effektkammer u. Krematorium 4 u. 5
 im K.G.L. Nr. 11 - 25.24 - 8.6.1. Friedhöfe: wycanie rdziny u. rodan-
 zu geschloßte Ischan ab u. mizny Ischan. 10 Stück Befestigungskette-
 strukturen der Metallklappen - 11. unter. Lieferzeit: 1.8.43.
 nach der Fortsetzung. Bauteil. Auftrag. Nr. 449 vom 10.8.43. V. Kamenovskij
 V. Kamenovskij, Minsk, Dytar. Undoznoset 1.8.43. - - - - -
 19.8.43. Fr. 776. Halbleitungsstellen im Krematorium 2 K.G.L. Nr. 30 m.
 Friedhöfe: 1 Stück Metall mit Platte und Mutter. Lieferzeit 2.9.43.
 Bauteil. Auftrag Nr. 431 vom 30.8.43. V. Kamenovskij Kozlovskij. Undoznoset 2.9.43.

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Photo 38

an das Holz. - 1 Stück dahlbael 20/24 cm. /u. dahlbael/. - Kasse
 sind an Ort und Stelle zu sein. Lieferzeit: 14.5.1945. Bauteil.
 Auftrag Nr. 223 vom 4.5.43. V. Kamenovskij Kozlovskij. Undoznoset 25.5.43.
 19.5.43. Fr. 386. K.G.L. Krematorium III Nr. 30 A. Friedhöfe: 1 Stück
 zweifig. Eisen-Einfahrtstür /aus 2.40 m x 2.60 m/ genau nach Muster
 die Einfahrtstür in Bauteil Nr. 11. 2 Stück Platten für 10-
 11. Einfahrtstür. die Auftrag. Nr. 44. - Kasse sind an Ort und Stelle zu
 nehmen. Lieferzeit: 16.5.43. Bauteil. Auftrag Nr. 232 vom 6.5.43.
 V. Kamenovskij Minsk. Undoznoset 14.5.43. - - - - -
 14.5.43. Fr. 416. K.G.L. Krematorium III. Nr. 30 m. /u. Topf u. 30-
 m. - Kasse/. Friedhöfe: wycanie rdziny u. Ischan nach Zeichnung
 und 10 Stück Eisen-Einfahrtstür für Topf u. 30. m. Kasse, Kasse, u. miz-
 dy. Ischan: 10 Stück dahlbaelklappen nach erhaltenen Muster. Lie-
 ferzeit: sofort anfertigen und Felier Kasse qualifizieren Bauteil. Auf-
 trag Nr. 234 vom 14.5.43. V. Kamenovskij Kozlovskij. Undoznoset 25.5.43. - - -
 19.5.43. Fr. 421. Krematorium III Nr. 30 m. Friedhöfe: 2 Stück Metall
 mit je 2 Mutter u. Unterlegscheiben. Lieferzeit: 22.5.43. Bauteil.
 Auftrag Nr. 236 vom 18.5.43. V. Kamenovskij Minsk. Undoznoset 21.5.43. 1
 24.5.43. Fr. 466. Krematorium III. K.G.L. Nr. 30 m. Friedhöfe: wycanie
 rdziny u. Ischan nach Zeichnung Ischan. Lieferzeit bis 28.5.43. Bauteil.
 Auftrag Nr. 238 vom 23.5.43. V. Kamenovskij Dytar, Kalle, dahl-
 bael. Undoznoset 26.7.43. - - - - -
 28.5.43. Fr. 459. Entwurfskammer K.L. dahlbael. Friedhöfe: 1/2 Die
 dahlbael. u. 1 Tür mit dahlbael, Luftdruck mit Spinn für dahlbael.
 2/ 1 Entwurf. - Cape Kasse wycanie. Bestellchein Nr. 150/2
 Nr. 2 m der Verwaltung V. 4 vom 25.1.43. V. Kamenovskij Minsk. Undoznoset
 10.6.43. - - - - -
 31.5.43. Fr. 468. Krematorium III. Nr. 30 A. Friedhöfe: dahlbael eines
 alten Bauteiluntergestelles vom 70-er Spur in einem Kessel-
 fahrtswagen mit 60-er Spur. Siehe Krematorium II. Lieferzeit: 14.6.43.
 Bauteil. Auftrag Nr. 237 vom 29.5.43. V. Kamenovskij Minsk. Undoznoset

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Photo 39

Critical study of the «WAR REFUGEE BOARD» report of November 1944 on K L Auschwitz-Birkenau

THE «WAR REFUGEE BOARD» REPORT OF NOVEMBER 1944

(A collective report based on the testimonies of Alfred WETZLER and Walter ROSENBERG [Rudolf Vrba], Czesław MORDOWICZ, and Arnost ROSIN, and a Polish major.)

Large extracts of this report were published in the «New York Times» on 26th November 1944, the day when Himmler, it is thought, ordered the dismantling of the three remaining Birkenau Krematoria. The concordance of dates, though perhaps due to chance, amply justifies the action of these five witnesses whose accounts formed the basis for the report.

My aim is to demonstrate the authenticity of the Rosenberg/Wetzler testimonies regarding Krematoria of type II/III, even though their accuracy is not great in the light of what we know now, because this report was the first on the subject and was regarded as authoritative for many years, despite errors on certain points. I have used three sources for the descriptions of the Krematoria and how they operated.

Version 1: «L'extermination des Juifs en Pologne. Dépositions de témoins oculaires. Troisième série. LES CAMPS D'EXTERMINATION» published in Geneva in 1944 by Dr A Silverschein.

Version 2: «Souvenirs de la maison des morts». La massacre des Juifs. Unpublished documents on the extermination camps. Brochure of 76 pages with no publication date, doubtless of Swiss origin.

Version 3: «GERMAN EXTERMINATION CAMPS. AUSCHWITZ AND BIRKENAU». Published by the Executive Office of the President, WAR REFUGEE BOARD, Washington DC, November 1944.

Of the three versions of the report, I consider the American one to be the best. I have underlined in red the phrases that I consider important and on which I shall comment in detail. In the second underlined phrases in versions 1 and 2, there is an error in 1, while in 2 the translator has added something, inspired by the sketch plan. Unlike versions 2 and 3, version 1 does not

contain a ground plan of a Krematorium of type II/III. I do not know who drew this plan, which fits the text and is referred to by it, but in the light of our present knowledge we must say it is inaccurate.

I mention simply for memory a translation that does not take account of the context of the premises, published by G Wellers in his «Les chambres à gaz: une enquête», taken from «Auschwitz et Birkenau», 1945, pages 17 and 18. Here, between the gas chamber and the furnaces there is a «path» where «trucks» transport the corpses. There is no mention of [rail] tracks or [narrow-gauge railway] trucks, the translator having opted for an inappropriate interpretation of both «track» and «truck».

In order to properly situate the report with respect to the reality of the premises, it should be read in conjunction with Document 4 («where I»), a simplified plan of Krematoria of type II/III, based on German sources reproduced below, i.e.: Bauabzug drawing 2216 (Documents 3, 4, 7 and 7a), a general plan of KGL Birkenau, drawn by prisoner 538, checked by Dejaco and Janisch on 20/3/43, countersigned by an unidentified person (PMO reg. no. 20583) and three photographs (PMO reg. nos 284, 287 and 290, [Documents 11, 12 and 13]). In this arrangement, however, the rails do not go from the gas chamber to the furnaces, but PASS IN FRONT. I shall explain this.

COMMENTS AND EXPLANATIONS

The report describes the Krematorium as being made up of three parts, A, B and C. The furnace room (A) and the undressing room (B) are on the ground floor and the gas chamber (C) is at basement level (Document 4). The proposed layout, while recalling that of Krematorium IV and V, applies to Krematoria of type II/III, as stated. Lastly, the underground location of the gas chamber (C) and a preparation room (B') is characteristic of Krematoria II and III (Document 3 («where 2')).

The number of furnaces cited per Krematorium is wrong. Those of type II/III had only 15 cremation muffle, not the 36 announced. This error is understandable if we assume that the witnesses had themselves never entered a Krematorium and all their observations were from the exterior or based on the accounts of other prisoners, in particular, though we cannot prove it, Sonderkommando members working in December 1942 at Bunkers 1 and 2 who would have been able to watch the building of what they believed would be their future place of work. Document

4 enables us to understand the assumed disposition of the furnaces around the chimney, and with this arrangement the number of furnaces would be a multiple of three.

In the report the throughput of the four Krematoria per 24 hours is fairly reasonably estimated at 6000, though this is one third higher than the 4416 units a day reported in a letter of 28th June 1943 from the Bauabzug to the SS Economic and Administrative Head Office in Berlin. Even this I consider to be a purely administrative document, calculated on the basis of the original estimated throughput of the furnaces, the true daily rate for the four cremation installations being no more than 3000. If we take the rate of incineration given by the witnesses - three corpses per muffle in one and a half hours - and apply this to the true number of furnaces, the daily figure for the four Krematoria is about 2200.

In light of the drawings of type II/III Krematorium now known, it might be thought that there was no undressing room at ground level, but drawing 2216 of 20/3/43 (Documents 3 and 4), a plan of the entire POW camp, confirms the reality. As at the date, only Krematorium II AND its gas chamber were completed. Its future underground undressing room is shown only as «planned». It had in fact already been built, but was not yet operational. Krematorium III was under construction. Its undressing room and gas chamber were also shown as «planned», which is not quite true: they were almost complete, but not yet usable. A «Pfeidentallbaracke» OKH Typ 264/9, a «stable-type» hut, was erected as a provisional undressing room in the north yard of Krematorium II. Two reasons may be advanced for this. First, the SS intended to use both Leichenkeller (basement morgues) of Krematorium II as gas chambers, operating them alternately, which would have been possible after making only minor modifications to Leichenkeller 2 (the undressing room) as it was already ventilated. Second - and this is more likely - a temporary undressing room was required because the access stairway to the basement undressing room was not yet built and work was still going on in this room, making it unsuitable for «special treatment» operations.

It is difficult to accept at face value the descriptions of the interiors of the undressing rooms and gas chambers, for the installations varied over time. Those of summer 1944 are well-known, for they have been described or sketched many times by former members of the Sonderkommando. On the other hand, those of the early days have virtually not been described at all. The witnesses may have described the strict truth - which already fluctuated according to the version - but I doubt this, since they never entered Krematorium II themselves, or they lied, which is also most unlikely in view of the exact details given elsewhere, or - and this is far more probable - they invented a little to fill in the gaps in a story whose ending they knew only too well.

LE CRÉMATOIRE MODERNE

À fin février 1943, on inaugure à Birkenau le nouvel établissement de gazage et des crématoires modernes, dont la construction avait été terminée. On cassa le gergo et l'incinération à Birkenwald et l'ordurement on procédait à ces opérations dans les 4 nouveaux crématoires construits à cet effet à Birkenau. Le grand fossé de Birkenwald fut comblé, le terrain aplani; les autres anciens crématoires furent déjà comme engrais dans les travaux agricoles au camp de Hrambano, de telle sorte qu'aujourd'hui on peut à peine évaluer une trace des effroyables massacres qui furent perpétrés à cet endroit.

Actuellement, 4 fours crématoires fonctionnent à Birkenau: deux grands, Nos. 1 et 2, et deux de plus petites dimensions, Nos. 3 et 4. Les crématoires du numéro 1 et 2 se composent de 3 parties:

- A) la chambre des fours
- B) la grande salle
- C) la chambre des gaz.

De milieu de la chambre des fours s'élève une gigantesque cheminée. Tout autour sont disposés 9 fours, possédant chacun 4 bœches. Chaque ouverture permet l'encroûtement de 3 cadavres à la fois, qui sont complètement incinérés au l'ospre de 1 heure et demie. Ce qui correspond à une capacité quotidienne de 2000 cadavres. À proximité se trouve la grande salle de préparation, dont l'agencement permettrait de se rendre dans la salle d'attente d'une installation de la même. Elle peut contenir 2000 personnes. Les cadavres d'elles fait se trouver préalablement une salle d'attente de même dimensions. De là, une porte et quelques marches conduisent à la chambre des gaz, étroite et très longue, située au pas en contre-bas. Les murs de cette chambre sont revêtus de toutes les couleurs d'une manière qui se brise. Dans la salle se trouvent 5 portes, qu'on peut fermer hermétiquement de dehors. Des rails courent à travers la salle, menant à la chambre des fours.

Voici la description des "opérations":

Les malheureux sont conduits dans la salle B; on leur demande qu'ils doivent prendre un bain et se débarrasser de leur linge. Pour les persuader qu'on les conduit vraiment au bain, ces hommes vêtus de blanc leur remettent à chacun un lingot de toilette et un morceau de savon. Puis on les pose dans la chambre des gaz. 2000 personnes peuvent y rentrer, mais chacune se dispose strictement sur la place pour se tenir debout. Pour parvenir à persuader les gens que la salle, au tiro des corps doit être répétée sans hésitation les gens qui y ont déjà pénétré se sont vus. Quant tout le monde est à l'intérieur on verrouille la porte. On attend quelques minutes, probable-

ment pour que la température dans la chambre puisse atteindre un certain degré, puis des 83, revêtus des masses à gaz montent sur le toit, ouvrant les fenêtres et lançant à l'intérieur le contenu de quelques boîtes de farblens: une préparation en forme de poudre. Les boîtes portent l'inscription "Cyklon" (insecticide); elles sont fabriquées à Danbourg. Il s'agit probablement d'un composé de cyanure, qui devient gazeux à une certaine température. En 3 minutes, tous les occupants de la salle sont tués. Jusqu'à présent, on n'a jamais trouvé, à l'ouverture de la chambre des gaz, un seul corps qui donnât un signe quelconque de vie, ce qui se produisait au contraire fréquemment à Birkenwald, à cause des moyens primitifs qu'on y employait. On ouvre donc la salle, on l'adras, et le Sonderkommando commence à transporter les cadavres, sur des valets plats, vers les fours d'incinération, où ils sont brûlés.

Les deux autres crématoires, Nos. 3 et 4, ne diffèrent pas de celui-ci mais ont une capacité totale de 2000 cadavres de Birkenau atteint dans 2000 gazages et incinérations par jour.

Dans la règle, on ne gaze que les Juifs, Les Aryens subissent ce sort tout à fait exceptionnellement, le "Sonderbehandlung" (traitement spécial) étant pour eux la fusillade; elle avait lieu, avant la mise en "exploitation" des crématoires, à Birkenwald, où les corps étaient ensuite brûlés dans les fosses; par la suite, les exécutions se déroulaient dans la grande salle du crématoire, qui possédait des installations spéciales à cet effet.

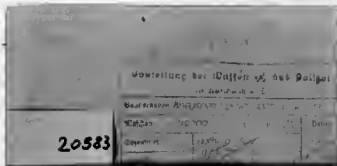
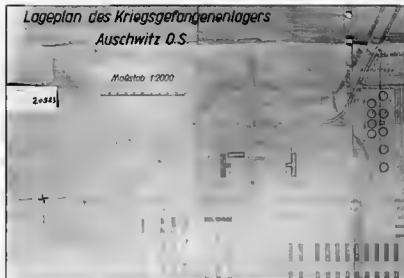
Le crématoire No. 1 fut mis en marche au début de mars 1943. 2000 Juifs de Cracovie furent les premières victimes. Des hôtes allemands officiels supérieurs et civils vinrent tout après de Berlin pour assister à cette inauguration.

Ils se montrèrent ébahis du fonctionnement de l'usine de mort et suivirent avec intérêt les "opérations" dans la chambre des gaz, à travers de petits judos aménagés à leur intention. Ils s'exprimèrent en termes très élogieux au sujet de cette nouvelle construction.

- * Salle d'attente centrale nommée B sur les schémas 1 et 2.
- ** Probable erreur de traduction. Il faudrait lire: "Des rails courent à travers la chambre à gaz, ..."

Notes Les crématoires I et II sont en réalité les II et III.

Document 5

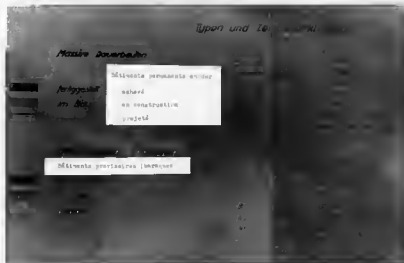


Document 6

Documents 5A and 7.

Details from the 1:2000 Closed Plan of KGL, Krakow, baselining drawing 2216 of 207A93 (PMD sig. no. 20583). The drawing confirms the existence of a part of the stable type in the north part of KZ-Block II in March 1943. We know little about this but suspect that after serving as an addressing room for the first batch of Jews to be gassed in this KZ-Block, it was quickly dismantled - only a week later according to the Sonderkommando member Henryk Tauber. The first mention of an access stairway through Litzkauerflur 2 found in the PMD archives, BW 3160, page 682, is dated 30/1/43 (Document 7a). As seen in this entrance was no longer required.

Document 7



Key to Document 7.

Bâtiments permanents en dur/Permanent brick-built buildings

achevé/Completed
en construction/
Under construction
projeté/Planned

Bâtiments provisoires (barraques)/
Temporary buildings (barracks)

Bâtiments permanents en dur/
achevé
en construction
projeté

Bâtiments provisoires (barraques)

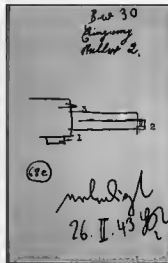
Document 7a

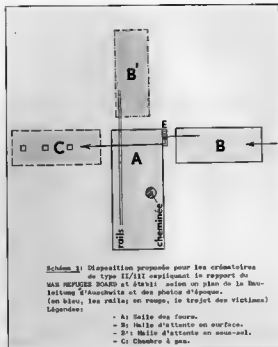
Document 7a

PMD file BW 3014, page 682 (basement)

Dated 26th February 1943, mention of a stairway giving access to «Keller 2» or the addressing room, signed by SS Ulrich Kirschbeck

- 1. Direct access to the basement of KZ-Block II;
- 2. Entrance to the addressing room;
- 3. Stairs and chute for delivering corpses to the basement.





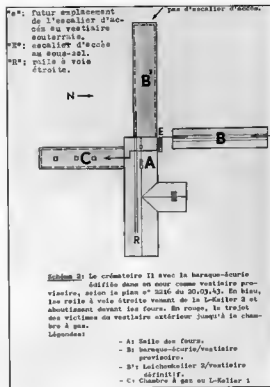
Document 1

Arrangement proposed for Krematorium of type II/III, explaining the WAR REFUGEE BOARD report and based on an Auschwitz Bauleitung drawing and contemporary photographs

The rails are in blue and the route taken by the victims in red.

KEY

- A: Furnace room,
- B: Ground floor waiting room,
- B': Basement waiting room,
- C: Gas chamber,
- E: The «few steps»
cheminée/chimney



Document 2

Krematorium II with the stable-type hut erected in the yard to serve as a provisional undressing room, as per drawing 2216 of 20/3/43.

In blue: the narrow-gauge rails running from Leichenkeller 2 in front of the furnaces.

In red: the path taken by the victims from the external undressing room to the gas chamber.

KEY.

- A: Furnace room;
- B: Hut/temporary undressing room,
- B': Leichenkeller 2/permanent undressing room;
- C: Leichenkeller 1/gas chamber with three introduction devices
- e: Future location for access stairs to the basement
- E: Access stairway to basement
- R: Narrow-gauge rails

WHAT DID THE WITNESSES ACTUALLY SEE?

The gas chamber of Krematorium II was fitted with four openings for pouring Zyklon-B. The witnesses state that there were only three, and a photograph of January 1943 does indeed show this gas chamber as having only three devices for introducing the toxic product at this time.

There remains the problem of the rails. According to the witnesses, they ran from C (the gas chamber) to A (the furnace room), connecting two different levels, the basement and the ground floor. This can be done only if there is a shallow slope between the two levels. This is the most dubious part of the testimony, for the corpses in Krematorium II/III, were in fact brought up from the underground gas chamber to the ground floor furnace room by means of a goods lift. There were no rails or wagons involved in this process. Three Zuleitung photographs (Documents 14, 13 and 13) confirm that in late 1942 and early 1943 there were narrow-gauge rails running between the furnace room and the future undressing room, Leichenkeller 2, apparently to facilitate the transport of building materials between these two places (Document 10 ('Sitzung 2')). This railway was visible from outside the two Krematorien. However, it did not run between the gas chamber and the furnace room. The witnesses' confusion between Canal B' is all the more understandable in that they could see only the outside of Krematorium II and III. To show just how easy it is to be mistaken, I would simply refer to the book «KL Auschwitz: Documents photographiques», published by the Warsaw national publishing agency in 1980, where, 35 years after the event, Photo 61, identical to PMO neg. no. 286, is captioned «Construction of the gas chamber of Krematorium IV or V» and Photo 62, showing concrete being poured for the roof of the undressing room of Krematorium II, is captioned «Prisoners constructing the ceiling above the gas chamber of Krematorium II or III».

The presence of rails during the construction of Krematorium II and III, easily visible to witnesses outside, first led the witnesses into error because they thought they were a permanent feature and found them difficult to explain, then subsequently confused the translators, who had just as much trouble in inserting them logically in the text. Some - the version in G. Wellers' book - got round the problem by talking of «paths» and «ladders» for track and trucks, without bearing in mind that they were describing a building, the Krematorium, that they had never seen and whose overall dimensions did not exceed 50 by 100 metres. The same type of «vagueness» can be seen in all versions on the subject of the interior of the gas chamber, an indirect proof that the witnesses had never seen it. Version 1 describes it as «masked by hangings», Version 2 has «shower installations... painted on the walls», and Version 3 «the walls... are also camouflaged with simulated entrances to shower rooms». The details that were clear and well-established in the report were well-understood and rendered by the translators. Those that were less clear gave rise to different interpretations and hence to the different «versions».

The gassing of the 8000 Cracow Jews described by the witnesses corresponds fairly closely in date with the known history of the month of March 1943. The first stage of the Krematorium II furnaces took place on 4th March according to the deposition of former Sonderkommando member Henryk TAUBER, a day on which 45 «well-fleshed» bodies, specially selected from a batch gassed at Bunker 2, were cremated. The furnaces were subsequently kept going for another ten days without any further cremations. On 13th March, Messing, the Topf firm who installed the ventilation systems, announced that he had finished that of Leichenkeller 1, which meant that the gas chamber was now operational. And on the 14th, apparently in the evening, about 1500 Jews from the Cracow ghetto - rather than the 8000 of the report - were led to the underground but erected perpendicular to Krematorium II in its north yard. Preparation and gassing lasted two hours. Cremation proceeded at full pace for 48 hours. On 20th March, six days later, 2200 more victims, this time from Salonika, arrived to join the remnants of the first 1500 victims of Krematorium II (Documents 14 and 15).

As there was no kind of camouflage around any of the Krematorien for virtually the whole period of their activity, witnesses could observe them directly, especially Krematorien II and III, but probably only very briefly. Most of their observations date from late 1942 and early 1943. They were also for a long time in contact with members of the Sonderkommando of Bunkers I and 2, who supplied them with food and money, and perhaps also with information. This better relationship is explained by the fact that despite the repugnance that the members of the Sonderkommando inspired, they and the witnesses were compatriots. This relationship was broken off on 17th December 1942, with the «preventive» elimination of the Sonderkommando. This seems to dry up the source of information, but it is difficult to confirm this even though the concordance of dates seems in point to this conclusion. The photographs of the rails date from late 1942. The break between the witnesses and the Sonderkommando also.

Their observations may be summarized as follows:

A. What they could see and hear from the outside:

1. Without being able to interpret the significance immediately (during construction).

- The excavation for and building of two underground rooms. From one of these (Leichenkeller 2 or the future undressing room) narrow-gauge rails ran up to the furnace room. In December 1942 it was impossible to know which basement the SS would use for gassing, or whether they would use both.
- The installation of 3 (later 4) introduction traps in the roof of one of the basements (Leichenkeller 1).
- The erection in the yard of Krematorium II of a stable-type hut, where people entered clothed at one end and emerged shortly afterwards naked at the other end, then disappeared into a stairway near the main entrance of the Krematorium, never to be seen again.
- Shots this could be heard coming from the basement access stairway, fired a few metres from the gas chamber entrance door.
- SS-men, wearing gas masks, on the roof of the gas chamber, handling cans of Zyklon-B and pouring the contents into small chimneys sticking out of the roof.
- The starting of the extractor fan motor in the roof space of the Krematorium and thus of the furnace pulled air blowers on the ground floor.
- The smoke billowing from the chimney one or two hours after the SS had poured in the Zyklon-B.

B. What they did not see, but heard in the accounts of other prisoners:

- The internal arrangements of the Krematorium and of its gas chamber, which would explain the discrepancies in the number of furnaces and the varying descriptions of the gas chamber.
- The cremation statistics.
- The attitude of the SS officers and civilian officials during the gassing and cremation of the «8000» Cracow Jews. In fact, direct witnessing of the «Final Solution» shocked even the most rabid anti-Semites so much that they were virtually struck dumb (cf. Rudolf Hoess: «Commandant of Auschwitz», page 173).

C. What they could only imagine

- The function of the rails seen during construction.
- The transport of the gassed victims on flat wagons pushed from the basement to the furnace room, as was done between Bunkers I and 2 and their mass graves. In Krematorien II and III, this job was actually done using first a temporary goods hoist and subsequently an electric lift.

In conclusion, this early testimony, somewhat unreliable and even quite wrong on some points, has the merit of describing exactly the gassing process in type II/III Krematoriums from mid-March 1943. It made the mistake of generalizing internal and external descriptions and the operating method to Krematorien IV and V. Far from invalidating it, the discrepancies confirm its authenticity, as the descriptions are clearly based on what the witnesses could actually have seen and heard.

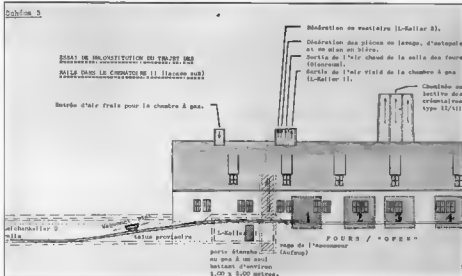
To conclude this chapter, I quote an extract from the book by Hanna Reitsch. «The sky my kingdom» (Document 14) in order to show that external alarm bells - such as the War Refugee Board report - were not the only ones ringing in the office of the Reichsführer, for whom things were getting hot. I draw no conclusions on the attitude of Hanna Reitsch or Peter Riedel with regard to the date of the episode and the disastrous turn the war was taking for them, but simply observe that it was high time for Himmler to order the destruction of the instruments of the «Final Solution», in view of the increasingly widespread repudiation.



Document 9
(FMO photo neg. no. 781)

The north side and west end of Krematorium II nearing completion in December 1942 or January 1943. The Krematorium proper, containing some thirty of the five 2-muffle furnaces, is located at A. At the end of the Krematorium and extending the building line to the west is one end of Leichenkeller 2, the future underground undressing room, indicated as B. The small hut B in the centre of the picture was to be replaced by one of the stable type, running north-south, to be used as a temporary undressing room. At the southern end of the hut is the Krematorium basement access stairway E, leading to the gas chamber, overlooked by the two north side windows on the right. Above, on the roof, are the Krematorium ventilation outlets and fresh air intake V, whose chimneys were later to be raised higher. This photo shows that anyone never having seen a plan of the building and not knowing of the underground flues leading from the furnaces to the collective chimney, would logically tend to assume that the furnaces were arranged around the chimney.

Document 5



Document 10:

RECONSTITUTION OF THE ROUTE OF THE RAILS IN KREMATORIUM II (south side)

KEY:

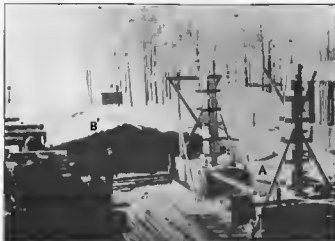
- Entrée d'air frais pour la chambre à gaz/Fresh air intake for gas chamber
- Désaération du vestiaire/Undressing room (Leichenkeller 2) air outlet
- Désaération des pièces de lavage, d'autopsie et de mise en bière/Washing, dissection and laying out rooms air outlet
- Sortie de l'air chaud de la salle des fours/Furnace room (Ofenraum) hot air outlet
- Sortie de l'air vicié de la chambre à gaz/Gas chamber (Leichenkeller I) noxious air outlet
- Cheminée collective des crématatoires de type II-III/Collective chimney of Krematorien of type II/III
- Wagonnet plat/Flat wagon
- Talus provisoire/Temporary earth bank
- Porte étanche au gaz à un seul battant/Single gas-tight door approximately 1 metre by 2
- Cage de l'ascenseur/Lift shaft
- FOURS / FURNACES (=OFEN=)

To understand how the rails seem to pass through the west wall, reference must be made to the building technique employed for type I-IIII Krematorien, as it can be observed on a series of Bauleitung photographs showing the construction of Krematorium III. The longitudinal walls were built first, with intervals where the ends of the transverse walls would subsequently fit. Thus the main construction may appear from certain angles to be almost complete, whereas in fact all the transverse walls are still to be built. The provisional earth bank on which the narrow-gauge rails were laid made it easier to transport building materials between the surface and basement levels. However, this arrangement prevented any passage between the furnace room and the gas chamber, because the entrance to the latter was beneath the rails and the bank. As this arrangement is confirmed by contemporary photographs, it is obvious that members of the Sonderkommando would not have been able to bring corpses from the gas chamber to the furnace room on flat wagons, since the rails situated in the future undressing room (Leichenkeller 2) and as long as they remained in place the gas chamber (Leichenkeller I) could not function because its entrance was blocked.

REALITY: PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE



Document 11



Document 11a



Document 12



Document 13

Document 14.
[PHO photo.org no. 196]

Leichenkeller 2 or undressing room (B') of Krematorium III, under construction, with part of the damp proofing applied, east-west view. No direct access stairway <-> has been provided for. Lower right: the narrow gauge rails. R. had to transport building materials between ground level and Leichenkeller 2. The photograph probably dates from October or November 1942, as the basements of the T.W.O. Krematorium were dug and built at the same time, very early with respect to the completion of Krematorium III in June 1943.

Document 14a
[PHO photo.org no. 196]

Leichenkeller 2 (undressing room) of Krematorium III in December 1942 or January 1943, looking east-west, as in Photo 11. Dug too early and not completed because of a lack of damp proofing material, it was covered with a temporary roof B'. As <-> we can see part of the west wall, still with no access stairway. In the foreground, two pillars and their foundations for the future furnace room A. Right and centre is the completed north wall of the Krematorium. With the building technique used, the transverse walls were to be built later.

Document 12
[PHO photo.org no. 197]

Completion of the furnace room of Krematorium II in December 1942 or January 1943, looking east-west. Clearly visible are the rails R descending on a shallow slope towards Leichenkeller 2. The gradient can be judged by the few protective walls built in front of the 3 multiple furnaces, which are not yet fitted with their lateral pulsed air blowers installed in late January or early February 1943.

Document 13
[PHO photo.org no. 198]

Completion of the furnace room of Krematorium II in December 1942 or January 1943, looking west-east and taken on the same day as Photo 12. The rails R are visible in the bottom right hand corner.

- 84 Dania Cześć
12. 3. wiozornem ucieklo z obozu 2 więźniów: Szepela Jan nr 300 i Marynec Aleksander nr 644.
 13. 3. przemieszczono z obozu koncentracyjnego w Oświęcimiu do obozu koncentracyjnego w Sachsenhausen 1000 więźniów-Polaków.
 13. 3. przywieziono transportem zbiorowym 25 więźniów (107550-107583) oraz 17 więźniarek (38143-38159).
 13. 3. przywieziono z Mińska 187 więźniów (107565-107771). W tym samym dniu zmarło i pokłódo przemieszczonych 2 więźniów: nr 107627 i nr 107750.
 13. 3. przywieziono transportem RSHA z Berlina 344 mężczyzn oraz 620 kobiet i dzieci — Żydów. Po selekcji skierowano do obozu jako więźniów: 218 mężczyzn (107772-107908) oraz 147 kobiet (38160-38306). Pozostałych 120 mężczyzn i 473 kobiety i dzieci zabito w komorach gazowych.
 13. 3. przywieziono z Niemiec 1353 Cyganów, w tym 640 mężczyzn i chłopców (Z-2200-Z-2838) oraz 713 kobiet i dziewcząt (Z-2480-Z-3192).
 14. 3. przywieziono transportem RSHA z getta B w Krakowie około 2000 Żydów. Po selekcji skierowano do obozu jako więźniów: 281 mężczyzn (107990-108406, 108467-108530) oraz 24 kobiety (38307-38330). Pozostałych zabito w komorach gazowych.
 14. 3. przywieziono transportem zbiorowym 3 więźniów (108418-108412) oraz 18 więźniarek (38331-38346).
 14. 3. przywieziono z obozu koncentracyjnego w Ravensbrücku 42 więźniów chorych na gruźlicę (108415-108454).
 14. 3. przywieziono transportem zbiorowym 4 więźniów (108455-108458).
 14. 3. przywieziono z Niemiec 866 Cyganów, w tym 461 mężczyzn i chłopców (Z-2840-Z-3306) oraz 505 kobiet i dziewcząt (Z-3193-Z-3697).
 14. 3. wiozornem uciekło z komendy pracującego poza obozem więźniów Flutowski Stanisław.
 14. 3. przywieziono z Katowic 5 więźniów (108459-108463).
 15. 3. przywieziono z Opola 1 więźnia (108531).
 15. 3. przywieziono transportem zbiorowym 8 więźniarek (38347-38353).
 15. 3. przywieziono z Niemiec 458 Cyganów, w tym 215 mężczyzn i chłopców (Z-3301-Z-3515) oraz 244 kobiety i dziewcząt (Z-3698-Z-3941).
 15. 3. numer Z-3942 otrzymała Rudzka Justina, które urodziła się w obozie cygańskim w Brzeszcu.
 15. 3. obsługa organizacja Ruchu Oporu zapowiedziała, że w terminie od 15 stycznia do 15 marca 1943 r. otwierają się oficjalnie listy karykaturalne, zagrożeń i zastraszających za 20 tysięcy więźniów marzestwowych.
 16. 3. przywieziono z Katowic 43 więźniów (108532-108574) oraz 3 więźniarek (38356-38358).
 16. 3. przywieziono z Krakowa 31 więźniów (108575-108605) oraz 55 więźniarek (38359-38413).

* W telegraficznym zawiadomieniu z listy więźniów wysłano przez komendę obozu do szefostwa powiatu łódzkiego podano, że został zamordowany w obozie w dniu 14. 3. 43 r. w tym opisy obozu w Ruchu Oporu.
* Materiały obozowe Ruchu Oporu, t. VII, str. 483.

Documents 14 and 15:
"Auschwitz Nachrichten", No 4, 1960, Polish version.

Translation
of the underlined entries:

[Document 14] 14.3. Arrival of an RSHA transport of about 2000 Jews from Cracow Ghetto B. At the selection, 464 men and 24 women were directed to the camp as prisoners. The remainder were killed in the gas chambers.

[Document 15] 20.3. Arrival of an RSHA transport of about 2800 Jews from Salonika Ghetto (Greece). At the selection, 417 men and 192 women were directed to the camp as prisoners. The remainder were killed in the gas chambers.

18. 3. przywieziono z Niemiec 100 Cyganów, w tym 31 mężczyzn i chłopców (Z-4863-Z-4903) oraz 90 kobiet i dziewcząt (Z-5377-Z-5445).
18. 3. numer Z-4896-Z-4900 otrzymało 5 chłopców, którzy urodzili się w obozie cygańskim w Brzeszcu.
18. 3. numer Z-5446-Z-5448 otrzymały 3 dziewczynki, które urodziły się w obozie cygańskim w Brzeszcu.
20. 3. przywieziono z obozu koncentracyjnego w Dachau 1 więźnia (107208).
20. 3. przywieziono transportem zbiorowym 72 więźniów (109209-109370) oraz 76 więźniarek (38645-38720).
20. 3. przywieziono transportem RSHA z getta w Salonikach (Grecja) około 2800 Żydów. Po selekcji skierowano do obozu jako więźniów 417 mężczyzn (109371-109787) oraz 192 kobiety (38721-38912). Pozostałych zabito w komorach gazowych.
21. 3. numer Z-4901-Z-4902 otrzymało 2 chłopców, którzy urodzili się w obozie cygańskim w Brzeszcu.
21. 3. przywieziono z Niemiec 64 Cyganów, w tym 28 mężczyzn i chłopców (Z-4903-Z-4931) oraz 33 kobiety i dziewcząt (Z-5446-Z-5483).
22. 3. przywieziono z Katowic 83 więźniów (109788-109970).
22. 3. przywieziono transportem zbiorowym 24 więźniów (109872-109885) oraz 46 więźniarek (38913-38960).
22. 3. przywieziono z Niemiec 60 Cyganów, w tym 25 mężczyzn i chłopców (Z-4932-Z-4950) oraz 35 kobiet i dziewcząt (Z-5484-Z-5518).
22. 3. Roukling der Waffen-SS u, Polizei KGL — Auschwitz ukroczyło budowę komór gazowych i krematorium IV w Brzeszcu i przekazało je do użytku komendaturze obozu koncentracyjnego w Oświęcimiu.
23. 3. przesłano z obozu koncentracyjnego w Oświęcimiu do obozu koncentracyjnego w Rydze 2 więźniów-żydów: Gajewskiego Tomira nr 18849 i Łuczkę Bolesława nr 87451.
23. 3. przywieziono z Katowic 2 więźniów (110480, 110481) oraz 1 więźniarkę (38961).
23. 3. wiozornem z obozu cygańskim w Brzeszcu zarządzono „Lager-sperre”, podczas której wyprowadzono z bloków 20 i 22 ok. 1700 mężczyzn, kobiet i dzieci — Cyganów polskich. Zapędzono ich do komór gazowych i tam zabito prawie wszystkich. Cyganów tych przywieziono z Biłgoraja i jako zarobkujących w obozie. Żydów w bloku 20 i 22. Nie wpisano ich do ewidencji obozowej i nie wydano im numerów. W obozie przeżywał kilka dni.
24. 3. przywieziono transportem RSHA z getta w Salonikach około 2800 Żydów. Po selekcji skierowano do obozu jako więźniów: 584 mężczyzn (109806-110478) oraz 230 kobiet (38982-39191). Pozostałych zabito w komorach gazowych.
24. 3. przywieziono z Katowic 1 więźniarkę (38192).
24. 3. przywieziono z Niemiec 261 Cyganów, w tym 133 mężczyzn i chłopców (Z-4957-Z-5089) oraz 128 kobiet i dziewcząt (Z-5519-Z-5646).
25. 3. numer Z-5080 otrzymał Waim Rudolf, który urodził się w dniu 22 marca 1943 r. w obozie cygańskim w Brzeszcu.
25. 3. przywieziono z Katowic 4 więźniów (107584, 108464-108486).
25. 3. przywieziono 1 więźnia-Żyda (110482).
25. 3. przywieziono transportem RSHA z getta w Salonikach 1901 Żydów. Po selekcji skierowano do obozu jako więźniów: 438 me-

The following extract from «The sky my kingdom», by Hanna Retsch, confirms the very long time that it took for nations outside the Third Reich not so much to know of, as to fully realize what was implied by, the «Final Solution» to the «Jewish Problem» in occupied Europe, and the means by which it was implemented.

In October 1944, my old flying comrade Peter Pledet, who was now in the German Embassy in Sweden, called on me at the Flying Club in Berlin. In a state of considerable agitation, he threw a booklet down on the table

«If you want to know what's going on in Germany, look at this! This is what we find in our desks at the Embassy!»

I glanced through the booklet, which concerned the gas chambers. I was beside myself

«And you believe this?» I asked, furious. «In the First World War enemy propaganda smeared the German soldier with every imaginable barbarity - now it has come to gas chambers.»

My emotion strongly impressed my friend.

«I'll believe that from you,» he said, but he asked me to inform Himmler about it immediately

I telephoned Himmler, obtaining permission to visit him at his headquarters in the field. Arrived there, I placed the booklet before him.

«What do you say to this, Reichsführer?»

He picked it up and flicked over the pages. Then, without a change of expression, he looked up, eyeing me quietly

«And you believe this, Frau Hanna?»

«No, of course not. But you must do something to counter it. You can't let them shoulder this onto Germany.»

Himmler laid the booklet on the table, then looked at me once more

«You are right,» he said.

[In the English version, the chapter ends there, but the French version contains two additional paragraphs

A few days later the information was denied in one of the main German newspapers. I learned from Peter Pledet that the same denial had appeared in a Swedish newspaper

It was only after 1945 that I found out, and with what horror, this Himmler had lied to me, and that the awful news was true.]

Critical study of the testimonies of doctors BENDEL and NYISZLI concerning the Birkenau Krematorien and the homicide gassings

The testimonies of
Doctors Miklos NYISZLI and Charles Sigismund or Paul BENDEL
or
A demonstration of the impossibility of relying on raw testimony

Account by Doctor Paul BENDEL taken from «*TEMOIGNAGES SUR AUSCHWITZ*», Editions de l'Amicale des déportés d'Auschwitz, 10 rue Leroux, Paris 16, 1946. Extracts from pages 159 to 164.

Translation :

THE KREMATORIEN «The Sonderkommando»

Each concentration camp had a crematorium for «local» needs. While some of them, such as *Meibhausen* and *Dachau*, had gas chambers¹⁾, none of them had Krematorien to match those of Auschwitz-Birkenau in terms either of size or number of victims. German technical and organizational abilities were here given full play, and in fact they surpassed themselves.

For long months²⁾, I had the doubtful privilege of being attached to doctor in the four Krematorien³⁾ of Auschwitz-Birkenau that were ceaselessly working to exterminate all those whom the Master Race considered unworthy to live.

These Krematorien were tended by nine hundred deportees who formed what was called the Sonderkommando. The kommando formed a small apart, separated from the other prisoners (living first in closed barracks and later in the Krematorien themselves) and directly under the control of the Political Section.

One of its members told me, it was absolutely forbidden to take him to the camp hospital and he had to be treated in situ. We were three doctors assigned to this task.

The Sonderkommando has often been called «the death squad», and nothing could be more true. Those selected for it could under no circumstances avoid it.

Their death sentence had just been pronounced and, except in the case of a miracle, would be carried out sooner or later.

Of the nine hundred members of the Sonderkommando, two hundred were gassed on 7th September 1944 and that hundred shot before my eyes on 7th October 1944 during a revolt that was unique in the annals of the camps, and one hundred fell on 27th November 1944 for an unknown destination. No trace of them has ever been found. Just a few intrepid individuals managed to survive this massacre after capricious adventures.

The Sonderkommando to which I belonged⁴⁾ was the third one, the previous two having been exterminated at intervals of a few months. Such opportunities could not and should not be left alive. Parallel to the prisoner Sonderkommandos, there was also an SS Sonderkommando, three men per Krematorium (not counting the guards). They enjoyed special privileges in terms of money, alcohol, etc. There were four Krematorien, a fifth, known as the bunker, being nothing but a furnace transformed into a gas chamber «to save the cause». Separated from me by a few hundred metres, they were *conspicuous*⁵⁾ in what was known as Birkenau. If you look for this name on the map you will not find it. And yet it was the burial of hundreds of thousands of victims, from all over Europe.

A double track railway brought the deportees right to the gates of the two Krematorien 1 and 2 (I and II). With their spacious rooms, fitted with telephone and radio, the ultra-modern dressing room and their *gases*⁶⁾ of anatomical exhibits, they constituted, as an SS-man unpleasantly told me «the latter ever does in this line».

The foundations of these imposing red-brick buildings were *in the ground*⁷⁾.

1844⁸⁾ The *thousands of prisoners*⁹⁾ worked on them and died during their construction.

Completed in January 1942¹⁰⁾, their inauguration was honoured by the presence of *Himmler*¹¹⁾ in person, an indication of the importance attached to their «work» by the Nazi leadership.

The conveyer of the condemned entered via a wide stone stairway that a big underground room that served as an undressing room. The order was given that everyone had to bathe and then go for disinfection. Each person attached his things together and «supra illos», placed them on a numbered hanger. From there, completely naked, he went through a narrow corridor that the gas countless proper (there were two). Built of reinforced concrete, they had such low ceilings that they gave the impression on entering that they were falling on you.

In the middle of these chambers, descending from the ceiling, were red iron tubes with external valves through which the gas was introduced. Through a small trap-hole in the double door of solid oak, the SS could observe the horrible agony of all small *prisoners*¹²⁾. The bodies were subsequently removed by the Sonderkommando men and placed in a pit that took them up to the ground floor, where there were *exterminations*¹³⁾. Their total capacity was in the order of *two thousand bodies in 24 hours*¹⁴⁾.

The two Krematorien 3 and 4 (IV and V), more commonly known as the «first Krem» (they were located in a pleasant clearing) were of more modest dimensions, and their eight furnaces could handle one thousand bodies *a day*¹⁵⁾. At the time I joined the Sonderkommando, the throughput of these furnaces had been *diminished*¹⁶⁾ and they were replaced by three cremation pits, each 12 metres long, 6 wide and 1.5 deep. The capacity of these pits was enormous, *one thousand*¹⁷⁾ persons at nine. This was further increased by installing a *conduit to channel human fat to a reservoir*¹⁸⁾.

It was in Krematorium 4 (IV) that I had my first sight of what the Sonderkommando men were forced to do.

One day in June 1944¹⁹⁾, at 6 o'clock in the morning, I joined the day shift (150 men) of Krematorium 4. It was a fine day. The men watched for my reactions. A childlike shyness prevented them from encouraging me. I tried to hide my apprehension as much as I could. At last I was going to see what the new men on the Krematorium had been telling me about for days. The guards were waiting. And then we were off.

About a hundred metres from the Krematorium we could see *white smoke rising into the air*²⁰⁾. The men were silent. I dared not ask any questions.

Finally we arrived and the men were detailed off to their tasks. There as a spectator, I wanted to satisfy my curiosity. I wanted to know the origin of that smoke. And so, behind the Krematorium I knew the pits where the remains of the previous evening's conveyer were in the final stages of being consumed. A few metres away, men were at work around heaps of ashes, reducing into a very fine powder what remained of the *first thousand bodies*²¹⁾ who had passed that way on the previous day.

At 11 o'clock, one of the members of the Political Section arrived by motorcycle to announce that another conveyer was on the way. The head of the Krematorium appeared and ordered. The pits were to be cleared out and logs were to be put in place and soaked with fuel.

It was midday when the long column of women, children and old men came into the yard of the Krematorium. They were from the Lodz ghetto. We could sense that they were overwhelmed, exhausted and frightened. The supreme dose of the Krematorium, Herr Hauptsturmführer Mohr, a big brute with a face like Sâd Carim, climbed on a bench to tell them that they were going to take a bath and then hot coffee would be waiting for them. They appeared the poor people already fast measured. A few children cried this

They were thirsty, and the magnificent SS ordered water to be brought for them. The fiction and to be maintained right to the end, so that order could be kept.

Everybody undressed in the yard. The doors of the Krematorium opened and they entered the big room which served as an undressing room in winter. Squashed together like sardines, they realised that they had entered a trap from which they could no longer escape. They still had some hope, however, for a normal brain could not imagine the terrible death awaiting them.

The red cross ambulance arrived. Dr Klein, Obersturmführer, got out, bringing the cases of gas. A supreme insult to a professional and an emblem that certain international bodies today want to use to cover up the accomplishments of similar crimes.

At last everything was ready. The doors of the undressing room opened and an interminable cascade commenced.

The first to enter [the gas chamber] recoiled from it, perceiving the death that awaited them.

With their rifle butts, smashing the heads of distraught women curiously clutching their children in their arms, the SS stripped that human abode and flew.

The solid oak double doors were closed. For two interminable minutes we could hear banging on the walls and cries that no longer had anything human about them. And from nothing. My head was spinning and I thought I had gone mad. What agonising crimes could these women and children have committed to deserve such a cruel death?

Five minutes later the doors were opened. Like an avalanche, the bodies, heaped together and contorted, fell out. Some were as startled with others that they were very difficult to extract. Covered with blood, they gave the impression of having fought desperately against death. Anyone who and once seen a gas chamber can never forget it.

The still warm bodies passed through the hands of the barber, who removed off the end, and the dentist who tore out the gold teeth. Systematic robbery anything else by a band of assassins who felt nothing to chance. And now an unrelentingly hellish scene commenced. These Sonderkommando men, like the bearded lawyer from Salonika or the Budapest engineer that I knew so well, became completely exterminated variable beasts. Under blows from the SS rifles and whips, they ran as if possessed, trying to free themselves as quickly as possible of the load attached to their backs.

A thick black smoke rose from the dishes. Everything happened so quickly and seemed so unbelievable that I thought I was dreaming. Clara's wife appeared to me to be just an old and simple allegory. An hour later, everything was calm, and the men were removing and piling up ashes from the pits.

Another convoy had just passed through Krematorium 4

And that continued day and night. For all the Krematorium and cremation pits together, the horrendous fumes of five to six thousand bodies burned in 24 hours was once reached.

At the time of the mass deportation of Jews from Hungary, in the space of a few and a month (May-June) the crematorium must have been that busy.

The Nazis often, both in propaganda and in official speeches, expressed their contempt for gold, but that did not prevent them from recovering from their victims, between the coming into service after the Krematorium and the month of November 1944, the month after they ceased to operate, the precious loot of the precious yellow metal.

A shameful rape by a regime that so well lived up to its aspiration to be the Master Race.

Dr Paul BENDEL, 167 480

Comments on Doctor Bendel's account

1. The Massacre and Dachau gas chambers: There was a 13.3 m gas chamber in Mauthausen, operated by preheating the chamber before introducing Zyklon B, which thus expanded as it vapourised. While 3455 victims were killed here according to the records, it has been impossible to prove historically that what is thought to have been a gas chamber at the Dachau crematorium was ever actually brought into service [Witness: *Les chambres à gaz, Secret d'Etat*, Les Éditions de Mouton, Paris, 1984].

2. Long months: About a year according to another deposition by Dr Bendel.

3. Four Krematoriums: This witness has used the «normal» numbering. The official equivalents are as follows:

Krematorium 1 = Krematorium III
Krematorium 2 = Krematorium III
Krematorium 3 = Krematorium IV
Krematorium 4 = Krematorium V
The Bunker = Bunker 2V

4. Camouflaged: The Krematoriums were never camouflaged, except members IV and V in four summer 1944 because of the proximity of Kanada II in the case of Krematorium IV and to prevent people seeing the cremation pits dug alongside Krematorium V, a palliative measure when its 8-muffle furnace was put out of service.

5. Museum: Certain anatomical specimens may have been kept as the dissecting room, but there was no room set aside as a museum.

6. March 1942: Incorrect. Work began at the end of August 1943 on Krematorium II and III. Krematorium IV was actually started in November 1942, but was not begun at the same time as that on Krematorium V, in early January 1943.

7. Thousands of prisoners: Pure invention. On each of the four Krematoriums «BW 30» work sites (30, 30a, 30b and 30c) there was a group of only about one hundred prisoners helping civilian bricklayers and other building tradesmen.

8. January 1943: This date is too early. The five 3-muffle furnaces of Krematorium II were tested at the end of January 1943 and its gas chamber began operations in mid-March 1943. The official completion dates are as follows:

Krematorium II [1]: 31 March 1943
Krematorium III [2]: 24th or 25th June 1943
Krematorium IV [3]: 22nd March 1943
Krematorium V [4]: 4th April 1943

9. Hammer: The presence of high-ranking SS is certain. That of Hammer is imaginary and dreams-up.

10. The conveyer system: The route followed by the victims is correct, from the stairs giving access to the undressing room, to the TWO gas chambers. Why two, when Krematorium II was built with only ONE. This detail always appeared unlikely, but it is now confirmed as true. TWO gas chambers were obtained by subdividing Leichenkammer I, considered by the SS to be of too large an area, and so that they could gas small groups of «valuable for work» in the second chamber. According to the testimony of 26th May 1945 by Henryk Tauber, POW transformation was carried out at the end of 1943, BEFORE Dr Bendel's visit to Krematorium II. The «two mesh tubes with essential valves» were in fact hollow square columns of heavy wire grid with a trap above through which the Zyklon-B was poured. The gas chamber and four mesh columns before being divided in two. Over the dividing wall was built, say two remnant vault. On the other hand, there were no double doors of solid oak at the entrance to the gas chamber. The witness must have confused the gas chamber door with that opening from the undressing room to the corridor leading to the gas chamber. In the furnace room of the «Old Krematorium» [K1] it is still possible to see a real gas light door from a deaeration or homicidal gas chamber. It is made of rough planks of selected timber.

11. Sixteen furnaces: Fifteen in fact. Krematorium II and III each and five 3-muffle furnaces, or a total of fifteen cremation muffle.

12. 2000 bodies in 24 hours: 1440 for Krematorium II according to a letter of 28th June 1943 (correspondence register no. 31550/1a) signed by Höfing (PMO file BW 3042, page 2), a purely calculated figure, the practical «throughput» being closer to 1000.

13. The two Krematoriums 5 and 6... in a day: According to the above-mentioned letter, the throughput of a type IV/V Krematorium was 708, a figure derived mathematically, by dividing the theoretical throughput of Krematorium II, 1440, by 15 to obtain the throughput per muffle, then multiplying by 8, the number of muffle in Krematorium of type IV/V.

1440/15 x 8 = 768

The true capacity was about 500 in 24 hours.

14. Deceived witness: Not the main reason. The pits were dug to compensate for the closing down of the big furnace of Krematorium V that of Krematorium IV already being out of service.

15. One thousand: Materially impossible to verify.

16. Conductor recovery pit: Technique described and confirmed by Filip Müller in «Töten aus...»

17. One day in June 1944: Bendel states that he worked at Birkenau from 1st January 1944 to 18th January 1945, and was the Sonderkommando commander. He was in fact Doctor Egonstein's assistant, and they both carried out medical experiments in participation with and under the direct control of Dr Mengele at a research laboratory installed to one of the huts of the Gypsy Camp (B.36). Such was

his situation at the end of May and beginning of June 1944, according to Dr Nyzslak [Auschwitz: a doctor's eye-witness account, page 35], who himself also claims to have been the whole of the Krematorium, personnel, in addition to his functions as pathologist. It would appear that Nyzslak really did occupy this post. Bendel's account in a series of «euphemisms» and his lack of overall knowledge of the Krematoriums is then understandable for he never actually lived there. A further possible explanation for Bendel's late initiation into the goings is provided by Paul Rösner in «Le véritable procès Eichmann» [The true Eichmann trial] (La Vieille Taupe: 1963) in a passage from the Kautzner document (page 234), where he states that the Bureau gas chambers and Krematorium had been out of use from Autumn 1943 to May 1944.

18. White smoke: Correct observation, proven by photograph 184 in «L'Album d'Auschwitz» by Serge Klarsfeld and by two of the «Polish Resistance» photographs (PMO neg nos 280 and 281).

19. Three thousand: Probably an exaggerated figure, although identical to that given by Dr Nyzslak. Impossible to verify without a precise date.

20. The gas chamber: In Krematorium V, there were three, later four, gas chambers with a total area of 240 m².

21. The double doors: This passage has only ONE gas-light door. Assimilation with the description already given of the entrance to the gas chamber of Krematorium II.

22. The still warm bodies, laid stacked to their wrist: The gas chambers of Krematorium V were emptied towards the north and west where the cremation pits were. Two photographs (PMO neg nos 280 and 281) taken from the northern gas chamber of Krematorium V and known as the «Polish Resistance» photographs, have recorded a similar scene. The technique of transporting the corpses by dragging them along by means of a string around the wrist had spread in all the Birkenau Krematorium.

23. This black smoke: Incorrect and smacking of literary effect. See earlier comment.

24. 25,000... in 24 hours: Incorrect. On one occasion when delays had caused several convoys to arrive together, a little over 9,000 people were cremated in 24 hours.

25. 400,000: Exaggerated figure. In fact closer to 300,000.

26. The month of November 1944: The 26th to be precise.

27. Traces of the precious yellow metal: Manifestly false figure. See Bendel's deposition before the Court for the trial of Bruno Tesch (below).

28. Paul: Paul Oskar Charles Sigismund? Which is or are the real name(s)? What are we to think of the variation in the given name in the light of his account and deposition?

EXTRACT FROM DOCUMENT NO. NI-11953
OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES (pages 27-31)

(Page 27)

MAJOR DRAPER: My next witness is Dr Bendel, who will give his evidence in French, which Major Forrest will interpret.

(Page 28)

DR C S BENDEL is called in and having been duly sworn in is examined by MAJOR DRAPER as follows:-

- Q What is your full name?
A Chentes Sigismund Bendel
- Q What are you by profession?
A A doctor
- Q Are you at present living in Paris?
A Yes.
- Q When did you first enter a concentration camp?
A 10th December 1943
- Q When did you leave the concentration camp for the last time?
A 8th May 1945.
- Q Over that period what camps were you in?
A Buna-Monowitz, Auschwitz, Birkenau, Mauthausen
- Q Why were you originally interned?
A For political and racial reasons.
- Q Were there any gas chambers at Auschwitz as opposed to Birkenau?
A There was one gas chamber in Auschwitz.
- [In fact there were 24 known gas chambers, but only one was homicidal, that in Crematorium II]
- Q How many gas chambers were there at Birkenau?
A Four crematoria and one bunker.
- [The witness indicates the places in which there were gas chambers, the number of which he did not know, as a more precise question could have revealed]
- Q For how long did you work at Auschwitz?
A From 1st January 1944 to 18th January 1945
- Q What was your employment at Auschwitz?
A I was a doctor
- Q Who were you attending as a doctor?
A The inmates
- Q What special work were the inmates of Birkenau doing?
A The normal inmate worked in the camp on whatever work could be found to give some sort of illusion of work
- Q Who looked after the crematoria at Birkenau?
A The so-called Sonderkommando, a special task force
- [The witness is talking about the Sonderkommando-SS, made up of 3 SS NCOs per Krematorium]
- Q How many men were there in all working on the Sonderkommando at Birkenau?
A 900 men
- Q Were they all Hilling [prisoners]?
A Yes
- Q Where were you at Birkenau, how many human beings were gassed in the crematoria?
A In Birkenau or in the crematoria during the time I was in the crematoria?
- Q During the time you were at Birkenau.
A About one million.
- [Getting on 300,000 would be more accurate]
- Q That was from February 1944 to January 1945?
A Yes, one million

- Q In that time a million?
A Yes.
- Q How were they killed?
A They were gassed.
- Q What sort of gas?
A Prussic acid
- Q Did it have a name?
A Zyklon-B
- Q Do you know the total number of people exterminated at Auschwitz during the whole period of the camp's existence?
A More than four millions
- [The witness could not possibly have known the number of victims. He is repeating the figure generally accepted at the time, but which has now been determined more precisely, in particular by Georges Wellers and Raul Hilberg (one million for the later historian)]
- Q What was the greatest number of people ever gassed at Birkenau in one day while you were there?
A During the month of June the number gassed was 25,000 every day
- [Or in other words 750,000 dead in the 30 days. The former camp commandant, Hoess, reports that the maximum figure reached was a little over 9,900 in 24 hours as the result of delays having caused the convoys to arrive on the same day. The witness is inventing things]
- Q With gas?
A With prussic acid.
- (Page 29)
- Q Did you ever see the prussic acid gas that was being used?
A I have seen the fumes. I have opened some of the bodies of those people who had been gassed.
- Q Would you indicate to the court whether any of those in front of the court are of a similar type to those to which you are referring?
A Yes.
- [Witness indicates Exhibit 4 and the smaller tin of Exhibit 2]
- [We have no description of these exhibits. They were Zyklon B cans of different sizes. The product came in cans of 200g, 500g, 1kg and 1.5kg. Further on in the interrogation, the term «medium» is applied to Exhibit 4 and «small» to Exhibit 2. Thus 2 would be 900 or 500g or 4 would be 500g or 1kg]
- Q Are the labels on these tins the names as the labels on the tins you have been telling us about?
A I remember - Zyklon-B.
- Q Have you yourself ever watched the gassing process?
A Yes.
- Q How many people could be put into one crematorium at a time?
A [Confusion between «Krematorium» and its gas chamber(s)]
- A In Crematoria I [II] and 2 [III], 2,000 into each, Crematoria 3 [IV] and 4 [V], 1,900 each, and the bunker [2VI], 1,000
- Q How were they put in - tightly packed or not?
A In the beginning they started gassing incoming groups above the number of 900, up to the number of 300 they were shot, above the number they were gassed
- Q Later how was it done?
A There were two [basement] rooms in each crematorium. In Crematoria 1 and 2 [II and III] one put 1,000 people into one room, so it was 2,000 at a time in both gas chambers
- Q What size were the chambers?
A Each chamber was 10 metres long and 4 metres wide. The people were herded in so tightly that there was no possibility even to put in one more. It was a great amusement for the SS to those in children above the heads of those who were packed tightly into these rooms.
- [The Leichenkeller 1 (gas chambers) of Krematorium II and III were 30 m long, 7 m wide and 2.41 m high and the Leichenkeller 2 (undressing rooms) were 50 m long, 7.33 m wide and 2.44 m high, according to surviving Bauleitung drawings 932 and 933. Taking into account the division of Leichenkeller 1 into two, we obtain two chambers 15 m long, 7 m wide and 2.41 m high. In the

- witness's memory, the size of the gas chambers has diminished by one third to one half. The concentration of people per square metre is increased accordingly]
- Q Were the people dressed or undressed at the time?
A They were naked
- Q How high was the room in relation to an ordinary person?
A You had the impression that the roof was falling in on your head. It was about 58 ft. [Subjective estimate - see previous comment]
- Q After the people had been pushed inside, what happened next?
A When the people were there inside, one locked the doors. For about two minutes you heard shoutings and screams
- Q How was the gas inserted?
A There were two methods of infiltrating the gas. In Crematoria 1 and 2 [II and III], it came from the roof and it came straight down until it touched the floor
- [Correct. The poison, fixed on silicon pellets, was poured into mesh columns, from which it diffused]
- Q How many tins of gas did it need to exterminate a thousand people in a gas chamber?
A I have the impression that two tins were sufficient for one thousand people.
- Q Which size, the middle size, the large size or the small size?
A The medium size [Witness indicates Exhibit 4]
- [Two cans of 500g or 1kg to kill 1,000 people piled up on 105m² corresponds to the introduction of 1 or 2 kg HCN in a volume of 250m³. Before the Nuremberg Tribunal, Hoess had stated that it took 8 cans of 1kg (8kg) to gas 1,500. Only the Leichenkeller 1 of crematorium II and III, with 210m² of area and 500m³ of cubic volume, was actually able to contain that human mass. So gas was used according to Bendel at a concentration of HCN from 4 to 8g/m³ and according to Hoess, one to 12g/m³. A concentration of 0.3g/m³ being enough to kill a man instantly, the quantity indicated by Bendel was 13 to 27 times the lethal dose, the one given by Hoess 40 times. These high percentages brought on an «overkill», ensuring a «flash» death]
- Q How many were gassed in May and June 1944?
A About 400,900. [200,000 would be more accurate]
- Q In August of 1944?
A From the 15th July to 1st September, 80,000
- [The Lodz ghetto, the last in Poland, contained 70,000 Jews who were «re-settled» in Auschwitz between 15th August and 18th September]
- Q What was the big period of the exterminations?
A It was May, June or July
- Q What did they do with the clothing of the prisoners who had been gassed?
A There was a special working party and their duty was to collect those clothes. The clothes were sent to Auschwitz to be disinfectant.
- [Not to the main camp, but to Kanada I situated between the main camp and the station]
- Q Can you give any idea of the quantity of such clothing which would be available?
A I do not know about the quantity, but I know about the disinfectant room where these clothes have been disinfectant
- (Page 30)
- Q How large was the room and how much clothing was in it?
A It was a very little room. I know it because 300 men of my own Kommando were gassed in that room.
- [The witness is speaking of the gas chamber or perhaps one of the two disinfectant gas chambers of Kanada I. There is no relation between the smallness of the room and the 200 men gassed, an incident that is not confirmed. See Part I, Chapter 4 - Kanada I-]
- Q What quantity of clothing was stored there?
A Clothing belonging to about five to six hundred people.
- Q When was disinfection of barracks and clothing carried out in that camp?
A During the whole period from 10th December 1943 until the 18th January 1945 I remember only one disinfection of barracks.
- Q What method was used?
A The time when I saw it - I repeat once - it was done by gas.
- Q Did they ever do disinfection of clothes or of barracks by any other method than that gas at Auschwitz and Birkenau?

A. It was done mainly by Lysolom.

[Incomplete and incorrect reply because disinfection of clothing was mainly by no air in sealed chambers or by high pressure steam in autoclaves. Lysolom is the German trade name of a 21.5% solution of formaldehyde or formalin a powerful and not very toxic antiseptic used for disinfecting premises and bedding, and for sterilizing surgical instruments. Sick rooms that have been infested by patients with infectious germs, can be disinfected by gaseous formaldehyde produced by a special device.]

Q. It was done more with than that it was done with gas, is that correct?

A. Mainly by Lysolom. I remember only once having seen it used by gas [Prepared and loaded reply, a consequence of the previous one, designed to show that the prisoners' barracks were disinfected mainly with Lysolom, a formalin solution, hence liquid. Unfortunately for the witness, the only possible disinfection method for the barracks was GASSING, using Zyklon-B. At first the disinfection of effects was done with Zyklon-B, Hot air and pressurized steam, which can disinfect and disinfest at the same time, require much more complex installations and only gradually came to replace hydrocyanic acid disinfection, a very effective procedure but one requiring care.]

These questions and answers are aimed at proving that virtually ALL the Zyklon-B delivered by Tesch and Stabow was used in homicidal gasings, which is wrong as we now know. The trials of the following figures of TESCH u. STABENOW (Tesch), distributor for the East, and DEGESCH, the firm that produced Zyklon-B have NO historical justification. The Managing Director of Degeesch, Dr. Peters, knew that Zyklon-B was used in about twenty gas chambers of about 10m³ unit volume installed by Messrs BOOS, FOR DISINFESTATION PURPOSES. While he suspected that some of his product may have been used criminally now and again for "autoclaves" in the case of the severely physically or mentally handicapped and incurably sick, it was not until the summer or autumn of 1944 that he is brought to have learned of the mass murders by Zyklon-B at Birkenau, and that through the boss talk of an SS sergeant. In any event, there was nothing he could do, and he certainly could not refuse to deliver Zyklon-B to the SS. The stifled and restrictive atmosphere of the regime, imposed by the war and the SS, curbed any desire for dangerous curiosity. Under a totalitarian dictatorship this is a basic rule of survival. While the Tesch and Degeesch trusts were of doubtful visibility, this is not the case with TOFF & SONS, the manufacturers of the cremation furnaces, who despite their apparent innocence were compromised up to the neck in the installation of the homicidal gas chambers. This is clearly shown by documents of the period. And yet there was never a Toff that...]

Q. In the month of May and June 1944 how many tons of Zyklon-B do you estimate were used for exterminating people?

A. That stands in relation to the number of people who have been killed

Q. What is the relationship approximately?

A. Two tons for one thousand persons, 25,000 per day; then we may say 50 tons per day [It goes without saying that this calculation is pure imagination, the figure of 25,000 never having been approached on any day, and certainly not maintained over one or two months]

Q. What happened to the bodies of the gassed people?

A. The bodies were thrown into mass graves, but before they were thrown into those graves their hair was cut and their teeth were pulled out, I have seen it.

[The witness is here speaking of practices used at Krematorium V and Bunker 2/V. He forgets the cremation furnaces of Krematorium II and III. The gas in his memory regarding these Krematoriums, which he seems to have visited only rarely, despite his claim to have been the Sonderkommando doctor, are wronging. They reveal his reluctance to speak about his own activities in his normal place of work, which was the experimental barracks in the Gypsy Camp. It is here to find a Sonderkommando survivor who is willing to talk about the whole of the period without self censorship of some sort. Filip Müller in his "Todes ins dene une chambers & gas d'Auschwitz" forgets to say that he survived the selections because he was "protected" by a Sudetan SS man. David Olère states that he worked ONLY on the waste incinerator. Their behaviour during their period in the Sonderkommando cannot and should not be judged. They experienced something beyond the limits of horror and tortious reason are untouchable. But there is no reason why they should not tell the exact truth instead of trying to pretty things up.]

Q. Was the gold preserved from the teeth or all the teeth?

A. The National Socialist government said they did not care about gold, still they managed to get 17 tons of gold out of the four million bodies

[Dr Miklos Nyiszli also stresses the contrast between the official "disinterest" of the Third Reich and this abject recovery of gold from corpses. Though they did not live together, Nyiszli and

Bendel operated in the same milieu, which explains their identical reactions. In announcing the collection of 17 tons of gold in reply to a question about teeth, the witness commits a stupid error. He states under oath that on average the victims had 4.25 grammes of gold in their mouths. This is beyond the bounds of credibility. Dr Nyiszli states that the "gold foxglove" - Krematorium II produced 30 to 35 kg of gold per day, from teeth AND other objects. This figure, certainly inflated, gives an average of 7 grammes or so of gold per person for a daily inflow of 4000 people. The 17 tons of gold mentioned by Bendel is a figure calculated on the basis of the incorrect number of victims, 4 million, multiplied by the true weight of a wedding ring, 3 to 5g. Gold teeth really accounted for only a small part of the total, but the rings and jewelry have been consigned away to leave teeth as the principal source of the gold obtained. The counsel for the defence could not let such an outrageous claim pass.]

Q. How long, as a doctor, do you think it took these people to die with Bausauberges [prussian acid gas]?

A. I should think about two minutes

Q. Who were the actual men who put the gas into the gas chambers?

A. The SS.

Q. Were they specially trained men or just any man?

A. No, these gentlemen were all volunteers.

[Wrong. They were NGO medical orderlies, "Sanitätsdienstgrade" or "SDG" who had been trained by Tesch and Stabenow in the handling of Zyklon-B for disinfection purposes.]

Q. What happened to the Sonderkommando who worked the crematoria?

A. 200 of them were gassed on the 27th September 1944, 500 were shot during a disturbance which was unique in the history of a concentration camp. [In the calendar of events in the camp compiled by Danuta Czech, a PMAO official, this first episode is noted as taking place about 25th. They are supposed to have been gassed in Kanada I. See Part I, Chapter 4.]

Q. Was it the policy to exterminate the Sonderkommando, or did it just so happen that way?

A. The witnesses who have experienced such atrocities could not and were not allowed to leave

[I believe, like the SS judge Konrad Morgen, that the situation was just as desperate for the SS employed in the Krematorium and they would have been quietly got rid of once the extermination was over, being posed to units to be sacrificed at the front.]

Q. After the bodies had been thrown into the pits, what happened to the bodies?

A. They simply disappeared. They became ashes. It was a fact that one thousand bodies having been thrown into such a pit disappeared in one hour; they became ashes

Cross-examined by Dr ZIPPEL:

Q. You have said that the gas chambers were ten metres by four metres by one metre sixty centimetres [the witness had in fact said something more like 1.70m], is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. Is it right that they are 64 cubic metres?

A. I am not very certain. This is not my strong side

(Page 31)

Q. How is it possible to get a thousand people into a room of 64 cubic metres?

A. This one must ask oneself. It can only be done by the German technique

[But the laws of physics are universal]

Q. Are you anxiously suggesting that in a space of half a cubic metre you could put ten men [in fact a little less than 8?]

A. The four million people who were gassed in Auschwitz were the witnesses.

Q. Is it not possible that they are in error concerning the figures you have given?

A. It is possible that the details are incorrect as one could not bother about ten or fifty or even a thousand in these figures, out anyway, the main facts remain.

[An argument used over and over again over the last 40 years, aimed at blocking any detailed research into the gas chamber exterminations. On 21st February 1979, on page 23 of the French newspaper "Le Monde", 34 French historians signed a declaration on the "Auschwitz Affair", concluding in these terms

-One should not ask how, technically, such a mass murder was possible. It was technically possible because it happened. This is the obligatory point of departure for any historical research on the subject. It was our duty simply to recall this truth, there is a not and cannot be any argument about the existence of the gas chambers.-

On the contrary, WE MUST ASK HOW SUCH A MASS MURDER WAS TECHNICALLY POSSIBLE. My work is the result of such research. This has enabled me to demolish certain absurd theories, expose certain lies and correct certain errors. But over the ruins of the old cob walls, the documents found in Poland and the Soviet Union have laid the new concrete foundations that will withstand the test of time.]

Q. Who were these four million people who were being killed?

A. There were men, women, children and old people

Q. Were these people who were gassed rich people or poor people?

A. It was difficult to tell from the clothing whether they were rich or poor, but they were certainly belonging to all classes of society.

Q. When you say that 17 tons of gold were collected from these corpses, do you then count a ton as having 1000 kg?

A. Yes

Q. Then you would say that per person, man, woman, child or baby, they had on average four grammes of gold in their mouths?

A. It must have been their scorched hair and some had less or nothing; it depended on the state of their teeth or their dentures.

Q. Was the disinfection being carried out by special squads of the SS?

A. The disinfection of the camp, yes.

Q. Is it right that the gas was being delivered to the camp by the Red Cross?

A. No, it was not being delivered by the Red Cross, it was brought in Red Cross vans. There is quite a difference between the two.

Q. Is it known to you that Lysolom is a disinfectant only against germs, but not against insects in clothing?

[Formalin is an antiseptic, effective against microbes, but is not an insecticide and is useless against lice, for example.]

A. There was no disinfection intended, as these people brought into concentration camps were not brought there to be disinfected or kept clean or kept healthy, but to be disposed of

[In 1944, there were two categories of Jewish deportees: those unfit for work, who were destined for the gas chambers, and those fit for work, who received some very limited care from the impoverished Reich of the period. For those selected for work, the first thing on entering the camp was disinfection treatment. The witness gave a deformed version of the facts.]

DR ZIPPEL: We have no further questions.

MAJOR DRAFER: No re-examination

(The witness withdrew)

CERTIFICATE

I, Alfred H. ELBAU, US citizen, AGO No A-165513, US Department of the Army, OCCWC, Nuremberg, hereby certify that the above copy is a true and correct copy of extracts from the official transcript of the 2nd day of a trial by Military Court of Bruno TESCH, Joachim DROSHIN and Karl WEINBAUER which took place from 1 to 8 March 1946 at The War Crimes Court, Curand, Hamburg. Document received on 15th September 1947 by OCCWC from War Crimes Group (First West Europe) at HQ, BAOR.

(Signature)

Alfred H. Elbau

Alfred H. ELBAU

-A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY-

„AUSCHWITZ: A DOCTOR'S EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT“ by Dr MIKLOS NYISZLI

Introduction

I have taken from Dr Nyiszli's book only Chapter Seven, describing the passing of a convoy at Krematorium II, thus being one of the best-known accounts. Many details can easily be verified using contemporary documents. The description is entirely accurate, EXCEPT for certain FIGURES which are very WRONG indeed.

I must admit that the stark contrast between the general perception of the account and enormous errors that it contains led me to think at first that the translator (into French), Mr Thibère KREMER, must be at fault.

Through the intermediary of Serge Klarsfeld, the Yad Vashem provided me with a photocopy of the first Hungarian edition of 1946, apparently published by the author. I checked in the original text to make sure the figures were correct. This enabled me to see that the translator was definitely not at fault. The fact remains, however, that certain figures in the original are quite wrong. Unless and until any further information comes to light, we can but attribute these errors to Dr Nyiszli.

Extract from Dr Miklós Nyiszli's book
„Auschwitz: a Doctor's eyewitness account“, Translated by Thibère Kremer and Darcot Seaver, London: Granada Books, 1973.

CHAPTER SEVEN

The strident whistle of a train was heard coming from the direction of the unloading platform. It was still very early. I approached my station¹, from which I had to send away onto the tracks, and was a very long time. A few seconds later the doors did open and the box cars slipped out. Hundreds upon thousands of the chosen people of Israel... Line up and selection took scarcely half an hour². The left-hand³ column moved slowly away.

Orders rang out, and the sound of rapid footsteps reached my ears. The sounds came from the furnace rooms of the crematorium: they were preparing to welcome the new convoy. The third of the trains began. They had just left the enormous warehouses going to the gas chambers. In order to obtain the desired degree in the ovens. Fifteen railcars⁴ were going simultaneously: six into the gas chambers, each with⁵... The crematorium room was about 500 feet long⁶. It was a bright, whitewashed room with a concrete floor and barred windows. Each of these fifteen ovens was housed in a red brick structure⁷. In entrance room doors, well polished and gleaming, connected lined the length of the wall. In five or six minutes the convoy reached the gas, where gassing doors⁸ opened inward. Five abreast⁹ the group entered the courtyard, it was the moment about which the outside world knew nothing, for anyone who might have known something about it after having travelled the path of the delivery - the 500 yards¹⁰ separating that spot from the ramp had never returned to tell the tale. It was one of the crematoriums which received those who had been selected for the left-hand column. And not, as the Germans had made the right-hand column suppose in order to allay our anxiety, a camp for the sick and children, where the infirm cared for the little ones.

They advanced with slow, every steps. The children's eyes were heavy with sleep and they clung to their mothers' clothes. For the most part the babies were carried in their fathers' arms, or else wheeled in their cots. The SS guards remained before the crematorium doors, where a poster announced: -Gentle is strictly forbidden to all who have no business here, including the SS.¹¹

The prisoners were quick to notice the poster¹², then for sprinkling the gas chambers were arranged about the courtyard. They began to take pots and were from their luggage and broke ranks, pushing and shoving in an effort to get near the faucets and fill their canteens. That they were impatient was not astonishing, for the past five days they had not drunk to drink, if ever they had found a little water. It had more stopped and without quenched their thirst. The SS guards who received the convicts were used to the scene. They waited patiently till each had quenched his thirst and filled his canteen. In any case, the guards knew that as long as they had not drunk there would be no getting them back this time. Slowly they began to re-form their ranks. They then advanced for about 100 yards¹³ along a concrete path edged with grass or grass¹⁴ to an open area¹⁵ from which 10 or 12 concrete pillars¹⁶ led underground to an enormous room demolished by a large sign in German, French, Greek and Hungarian - „Baths and Dismantling Room“. The sign was reassuring, and allayed the misgivings or fears of some of the most suspicious among them. They were taken to the others almost gently.

The room into which the convicts were taken was about 200 yards long¹⁷. Its floor was whitewashed and it was brightly lit. In the middle of the room, 200 feet of columns¹⁸. Around the columns, as well as along the walls, canopies. Above the benches, numerous coat hangers. Numerous signs in several languages drew everyone's attention to the necessity of tying his clothes and shoes together. Especially that he not forget the number of his next hanger, in order to avoid any useless confusion upon his return from the train.

„That's a really German order - connect tied coats who had long been inclined to admire the Germans.

They were right. As a matter of fact, it was for the sake of measures these measures had been taken, that the thousands of pairs of coat shoes were neatly tied by the Third Reich would not get mixed up. The same for the clothes, so that the population of bombed dust could easily make use of them.

There were 3,000 people¹⁹ in the room: men, women and children. Some of the soldiers arrived and announced that everyone was at completely undressed within ten minutes²⁰. The apostles, grandmothers and grandmothers: the children, medals and handbells, all were struck dumb with surprise. Most men and girls looked at each other questioningly. Perhaps they had not exactly understood the German words. They did not have long to think about it, however, for the unattended again, this time in matter, more menacing lines. They were undressed they dignity rebuffed, but, with the resignation peculiar to their race, having learned this anything more as for as they were concerned, they rarely began to protest. The apostles, the apostles, the most were helped by a Sonderkommando squad from for that purpose. In ten minutes all were completely naked, their clothes hung from the pegs, their shoes strung together by the laces. As for the number of each clothes hanger - it was being carefully noted.

Making his way through the crowd, an SS opened the sliding doors of the first column gate at the end of the room²¹. The crowd flowed through it into

another²², equally well-lighted room. The second room was the same size as the first²³, but neither benches nor pegs were to be seen. In the centre of the room, at the end of the corridor²⁴, columns rose from the concrete floor to the ceiling. They were not supporting columns, but square sheet-iron pipes²⁵, the three of which contained numerous perforations. Two a wire lattice.

Everyone was inside. A hoarse command rang out - SS and Sonderkommando doors the room. They obeyed and counted off. The doors swung shut and from without the lights were switched off.

At that very instant the sound of a car was heard. A small motor²⁶, furnished by the International Red Cross. An SS officer and a SOD (Sonderkommando) officer²⁷. Deputy Health Service Officer stepped out of the car. The Deputy Health Officer told the SS green-shirted men. He advanced across the grass²⁸, where, every three yards²⁹, were concrete pillars³⁰ joined up from the ground. Having crossed his gas mask, he lifted the lid of the pipe which was also made of concrete³¹. He opened one of the cans and poured the contents - a colourless gas³² into the room. The opening. (The following sentence present in the Hungarian and in Cyrillic or Chinese³³ is a garbled form which gives off an immensely incorrect with air.) The provided substance fell in a lump to the bottom. The gas produced scattered through the perforations and minutes later poured the room in which the prisoners were stacked. Within five minutes everybody was dead.

For every car it was the same story. Red Cross cars brought the gas from the outside. There was just one catch³⁴, in the crematorium. The prisoners were unconscious, but different, something was the fact that the gas was brought in a car bearing the insignia of the International Red Cross.

In minutes he came from the bus, the few gas-butchers walked another few minutes. Then they lifted cigarettes and drove off in their car. They had just made 3,000 prisoners³⁵.

Twenty minutes later, the electric pylons were set going³⁶ in order to ignite the gas. The doors opened, the trucks arrived, and a Sonderkommando squad loaded the clothing and the meat separately. They were going to disinfest³⁷ this time it was a case of half disinfection. Later they would transport meat by rail to various parts of the country.

The ventilators, painted in yellow³⁸, system quickly evacuated the gas from the room, but the crannies between the tubes and the cracks of the doors made pockets of a gas remained. Even few, made from yellow disinfecting soap. For that reason the Sonderkommando group which had arrived only the room was exposed with no means³⁹. Once upon the room was powerfully lighted, revealing a horrible spectacle.

The bodies were not lying here and there throughout the room, but piled in a mass to the ceiling. The reason for that was that the gas and insulated the lower layers of air and rose but slowly towards the ceiling. This forced the victims to struggle one another in a frantic effort to escape the gas. Yet a few had higher up the gas reached them. What a struggle for life there must have been! How often it was a matter of two or three minutes' respite if they had been able to free about what they were doing, they would have realized they were trapping their own children, their wives, their relatives. But they didn't! There they gasped as no room than the reflexes of the instinct of self-preservation. I noticed that the bodies of the women, the

children and the aged were at the bottom of the pile, at the top, the strongest. Their bodies, which were covered with scratches and lacerations, from the struggle which had set them against each other, were often bleeding. Blood oozed from their noses and mouths, their faces, bloated and blue, were so deformed as to be almost unrecognizable. Nevertheless, some of the Sonderkommando often did recognize their kin. The encounter was not easy, and I dreamed a for myself. I had no reason to be here, and yet I had come down among the dead. Until my duty to my people and to the entire world to be able to give an accurate account of what I had seen it ever, by some miraculous whim of fate, I should escape.

The Sonderkommando squad, outfitted with large rubber boots, lined up round the lid of the office and flooded it with powerful jets of water⁴⁰. This was necessary because the first act of those who die by drowning or by gas is involuntary defecation. Each body was defecated and had to be washed. Once the -bathing- of the dead was finished - a job the Sonderkommando carried out by a voluntary act of impersonalization and in a state of profound distress - the separation of the water of bodies began. It was a difficult job. They knelt down around the water, which they were cleaned in a vice-like grip, and with those things they dragged the slippery bodies to the draining⁴¹ in the wet room. Each 1000 dead slivers were functioning. They knelt down in a line, their eyes staring at an elevator⁴². The ring of a bell was the signal that the bodies were ready to be hoisted. The elevator stopped at the crematorium entrance⁴³, where a small black and white door⁴⁴ automatically⁴⁵. The hoisting machine against the tracks (The French translation is misleading here - the towing signal) was noisy and wetting. Again stairs were fixed to the sides of the shaft and they were dragged out onto specially constructed tracks which radiated them to front of the furnace⁴⁶.

The bodies lay in three ranks: the old, the young, the children. Blood oozed from their noses and mouths, as well as from their skin - abraded by the rubbing - and mixed with the water running in the gutters set in the concrete floor.

Then a new phase of the exploitation and utilization of Jewish bodies took place. The Third Reich had already taken their clothes and shoes. Each was a precious material: due to the fact that it expands and each article uniformly, no matter what the humidity of the air. Human hair was often used in different cases⁴⁷, where its particular qualities made it highly useful for detaching purposes. So they shaved the dead.

But that was not all. According to the signs⁴⁸ the Germans paraded and shaved to everyone at home and abroad, the Third Reich was not based on the "gold standard", but on the "work standard". (The following sentence appears to be in the English version only.) Every thing they had to order for the gold standard was ours now. At that very time the dead were next sent to the -bath- pillars: handbells, medals, watches, in fact all the trinkets⁴⁹. Consisting of eight bits, this Sonderkommando assigned its members with two tools, or, if you like, two instruments. In one hand a lever, and in the other a pair of pliers for extracting the teeth. The dexterity on their backs,

the Sonderkommando pried open the contracted jaw with his lever. He will his pliers, he extracted, or broke off, all gold teeth, as well as any gold bridge and fillings. All members of the Sonderkommando were foxes, snakes, rogues and dental surgeons. When Dr Mengele had called for candidates capable of performing the delicate work of otology and dental surgery, they had volunteered in good faith. Firmly believing they would be allowed to exercise their profession in the camp. Exactly as I had done.

The gold teeth were collected in buckets filled with acid which burned off

all pieces of bone and flesh. Other valuables worn by the dead, such as necklaces, pendants, wedding bands and rings¹⁴¹, were taken and dropped through a slot in the lid of a strongbox. Gold is a heavy metal, and I would judge that from 18 to 20 ounces¹⁴² of it were collected daily in each crematorium. It varied to be sure, from one conveyer to the next, for some conveyers were comparatively wealthy, while others, from rural districts, were naturally poorer.

The Hungarian conveyers arrived already stripped. But the Dutch, Czech, and Polish conveyers, even after several years in the ghettos, had managed to keep and bring their jewelry, their gold and their dollars with them. In this way the Germans amassed considerable treasures.

When the last gold tooth had been removed, the bodies went to the incineration kerosene. There they were laid by the end of a track of pulsed, made of sheet metal¹⁴³. The heavy doors of the incinerator opened automatically¹⁴⁴, the pulsed moved into a furnace heated to incandescence.

The bodies were cremated in heavy silences¹⁴⁵. Each crematorium worked with fifteen ovens, and there were four crematoriums. The means that several thousand people could be cremated in a single day¹⁴⁶. [The Hungarian and French versions give the figure of 20,000 rather than 'several thousand'.] Thus for weeks and months - even years - several thousand people passed each day through the gas chambers and from there to the incineration ovens. Nothing but a pile of ashes remained in the crematory ovens. Trucks took the ashes to the Veesle, a mile away, and dumped them into the raging waters of the river.

After so much suffering and horror there was still no peace, even for the dead.

Comments on Doctor Miklos Nyiszli's account

111 Window

Although from Nyiszli's book it is difficult to establish where he was housed, it is certain that he slept in the «Aufenthaltsraum [prisoners'] rest room» on the ground floor of Krematorium II. From its double window he would indeed have had a direct view of the «ramp».

112 Half an hour:

Often longer, an hour.

113 Left-hand:

This does not correspond to the position of the observer. These people were on the «Hangstrasse/main road», leading to Krematorium II and III. To see them «on the left» it was necessary to be in the middle of the ramp and looking west. But they could also go «to the right» and take the «Lagerstrasse A/camp road A», which led them via the «Rangstrasse/ring road» to Krematorium IV and V.

114 Fifteen ventilators were going simultaneously, one beside each oven:

WRONG. There were in fact five, one fan being mounted on the right hand side of each of the five 3-muffle furnaces, which Nyiszli implicitly admits. [Ref BW 30/41, page 33. The five fans were installed by Messing, a civilian employee of Messrs Topf & Sons, on 1st February 1943].

(multiplier to be applied to the facts to reach what is written: 3)

115 500 feet long

WRONG. Drawing 933, confirmed by the ruins, indicates a length of 30 metres, or roughly 100 feet.

(Multiplier: 5)

116 Each of these fifteen ovens was housed in a red brick structure.

Poorly observed. The fifteen cremation ovens were in fact made up of five 3-muffle furnaces.

117 swing-doors

Perhaps not swing-doors, but certainly double doors, still in place today

118 five abreast

The photographs in the Album d'Auschwitz confirm that they were in a column five abreast, at least the men, as this rule did not apply to women with children.

119 300 yards

FAIRLY PRECISE. There were 420 metres between Nyiszli's window and the centre of the ramp where the selection was made. Taking into account that the head of the «left hand» column advanced about a hundred metres down the main road to make room for those following, before turning towards Krematorium II and III, the distance is accurately estimated.

120 Water faucets

Confirmed by all the overall plans of the Birkenau POW camp. There was a tap 10 metres to the east of the waste incinerator wing.

121 100 yards.

CORRECT. The path from the entrance to the Krematorium yard to the steps leading down to the undressing room may vary a little, but it is almost exactly 100 metres. From the water tap to the undressing room steps is also a little under 100 metres.

122 a cinder path edged with green grass:

The aerial photographs of Krematorium II taken by the Americans clearly show its underground undressing room, bordered by a path - of cinders according to Nyiszli - with a grass-covered space between it and the northern barbed-wire fence.

123 Iron ramp

CORRECT. The iron railings were found in the «Bauhof» (yard for building materials) when the camp was liberated [PMO neg. no. 897]. The holes where they fitted on the right and left hand sides of the access stairway are still visible in the ruins.

124 10 or 12 concrete steps:

CORRECT. Ten in fact.

125 200 yards long

WRONG. The length of Leichenkeller 2 according to drawing 932 and the ruins is 50 metres, (Multiplier: 4)

126 rows of columns.

WRONG. ONE row of eleven supporting pillars down the centre of the room

127 3,000 people

Exaggerated figure. The true figure was certainly lower, probably 1000 to 1500 [see my comments on Dr Bendel's testimony concerning this subject]. (Multiplier: 2.5)

128 within ten minutes:

Much longer. During an interview with David Olère, he told me that filling the gas chamber [of Krematorium III], including the time taken to address, took hours.

129 swing doors of the large naked gate at the end of the room

Perhaps not swing doors, but broad double doors confirmed by the drawings.

130 The crowd flowed through it, into another.

Not directly. The people passed through a «Vorraum/vestibule» before entering the gas chamber.

131 This second room was the same size as the first:

WRONG. Drawing 932 and the ruins prove that Leichenkeller 1, the gas chamber, was 30 metres long. (Multiplier: 6.7)

132 Thirty yard intervals/supporting columns/square sheet-iron pipes

This passage as Dr Nyiszli SHOULD HAVE WRITTEN IT is as follows: Down the centre of the room, about every 3 or 4 metres [distance between centres] 3.80m, space between pillars 3.40m according to drawing 932] seven [central] pillars rose from the concrete floor to the ceiling. These were the supporting pillars, five on the left, between these pillars and the east wall, four others could be seen, 7 or 8 metres apart, also of square section, the corners being angle iron and the faces of wire grid. (Multiplier for distance between gas introduction columns: 4. Furthermore, 4 pillars separated by 30 metres gives a total length of 120 to 150 m, or 50 to 80 metres less than Nyiszli's earliest estimate)

133 a deluxe model

Subjective remark. David Olère has drawn a Rnd Cross YAG bringing the Zyclon-B

134 SDG:Sanitätsdienstgefesster

Incorrect. SDG is an abbreviation for Sanitätsdienstgrade or SS medical orderly NCO. Gefesster was the equivalent of corporal in the Wehrmacht, not in the SS where this rank was Sturmmann. Hoess refers to these men as «trained disinfectors» [a Commandant of Auschwitz's page 211].

¹⁰⁸ Four.
Probably correct, if they are 1.5 kg cans, as this corresponds to the figure of 6 kg cited by Hoess.
¹⁰⁹ Grass.
Correct. Visible on PMO photo neg. no. 20995/460

¹¹⁰ thirty yards;
WRONG. Every 7 or 8 metres. Repetition of an error already pointed out.
(Multiplier: 4)

¹¹¹ short concrete pipes
Correct. Though perhaps «cut-throats» gives a better picture. They were about 40-50 cm high and three of the four are clearly visible under construction on PMO photo neg. no. 20995/304

¹¹² concrete.
Henryk Tauber confirms that the covers were of concrete with two handles, but an inventory drawn up before Krematorium II was handed over to the camp administration on 31st March 1943 indicates «4 Holzblenden/4 WOODEN covers».

¹¹³ A mouse granular substance.
Actually pale blue-green.

¹¹⁴ Chlorine [not in the English version of the book]:
WRONG. The poison was hydrocyanic (prussic) acid

¹¹⁵ never a stock
Questionable. Henryk Tauber relates that the Zyclon-B was stored in a small basement room.

¹¹⁶ 3,000 innocents
See the comment on «3,000 people» above.

¹¹⁷ Twenty minutes later, the electric ventilators were set going.
Correct. The sequence of operations is well-described. Twenty minutes after the introduction of the gas the extraction fans were switched on and then the door was opened afterwards. In the description by Hoess, this order is reversed:
«The door was opened half an hour after the introduction of the gas, and the ventilation switched on. Work was immediately begun on removing the corpses.» [«Commandant of Auschwitz», page 224]

This inversion by Hoess is of little importance and no consequence. He was first and foremost the Camp Commandant and he had other things to worry about than the precise sequence of events during a gassing operation in an unidentified gas chamber, one of the seven locations where homicidal gasings were carried out, a sequence that any SS NCO in Krematorium I, II, or III would know perfectly well. I would point out that the first «shock» argument used by R. Faurisson in his «Mémoire on Défense», La Vieille Taupe, pages 158 and 159 on «The material impossibility of the Auschwitz gas chambers (documents)» is based on this «contradiction». A true indication of the trivial nature of his argument!

¹¹⁸ Disinfect.
More accurately disinfect. This was done in a gas chamber, again using Zyclon-B, in Kanada I.

¹¹⁹ «Exhonor» [«exhonor» in the Hungarian and French versions]:
Dr Nyiszli is the only one to give this name. It is not confirmed in any surviving document.

¹²⁰ It caused a suffocating cough - gas masks.
This cough was provoked by the warning agent in the Zyclon-B, a lacrymogenic and stimulatory «bromocyanide/bromocyanic ester». This observation by Nyiszli means that the Zyclon-B WITHOUT A WARNING AGENT delivered and invoiced by Degesch in March

1944 to the SS Unit Kurt Gerstein was not generally used in Auschwitz, otherwise the Sonderkommando members would not have coughed.

¹²¹ powerful jets of water.
The tap or taps were outside the gas chamber according to the testimony of survivors, but the inventory drawings of Krematorium II and III show three taps inside. Even if their initial location was inside they would soon have been damaged by the desperate victims, which explains their new location.

¹²² things around the wrists:
A technique for transporting bodies that had spread to all the extermination points.

¹²³ elevators.
There was ONE lift. A 300 kg goods hoist was provisionally installed in Krematorium II on 13th March 1943, and was later replaced by a 1500 kg DEMAG electric lift [BW 30/34, pages 69 and 70, letter of 28th February 1943]

¹²⁴ Four.
WRONG AND DELIBERATELY MISLEADING. All the Bauleitung drawings and the ruins prove that there was only ONE lift in the type II/III Krematorium. Whom is Dr Miklos Nyiszli trying to mislead and why?
(Multiplier: 4)

¹²⁵ Twenty to twenty-five corpses to an elevator.
With the «40 tons», Nyiszli confirms his claim that there was more than one lift. 20 to 25 corpses is reasonable, as with an average of 60 kg this would give a load of 1200 to 1500 kg, the latter being the maximum capacity of the Demag lift.

¹²⁶ at the crematorium's incineration room
More correctly «at one end of».
There is no indication here of more than one lift.

¹²⁷ large sliding doors opened automatically.
We have no details on these doors apart from the sketch of the furnace room by David Olère.

¹²⁸ chairs which unloaded them in front of the furnaces
No doubt a mistranslation due to lack of familiarity with the premises. There were no chairs here and only way the bodies were made to «slide» to a position before the furnaces was to drag them along a broad trough in the floor that was kept full of water

¹²⁹ Hair:
This was collected throughout Europe during the war. This practice had nothing macabre about it except in Auschwitz, where people were killed before being shorn.

¹³⁰ delayed action bombs:
More commonly known as time bombs: a «war story» pure and simple. The hair was transformed into industrial felt and even into cloth to make slippers for submarine crews and felt stockings for Reichsbahn railwaymen. [Letter of 6th August 1942. Doc. URSS-511, in: «Le Héros Reich et les Juifs» by I. Pokorsky and J. Wolf, NRF Gallimard, 1959, pages 67 and 68]

¹³¹ slogans:
Quite correct. The proclamations about the value of work in the Third Reich and the morbid pillage of gold in the Krematorium make a sickening contrast.

¹³² the «tooth-pulling kommando, which was stationed in front of the ovens»:
A sketch by David Olère shows the «dentists» and «barbers» at work in THE GAS CHAMBER of Krematorium III. Both methods of working were no doubt used.

¹³³ necklaces, pearls, wedding bands and rings:
Gold teeth and fillings were not the main source of gold, but rather rings, as Dr Nyiszli honestly says, unlike others who keep silent on this point.

¹³⁴ from 18 to 20 pounds.
Impossible to verify at present, without the consignment notes or Reichsbank receipts

¹³⁵ laid by three on a kind of pushcart made of sheet metal
For charging the bodies into the furnace there was in front of each muffle a set of rails for a charging trolley of the type now visible in the «Old Krematorium» [Krematorium I] of the main camp. This technique, considered too complicated, was abandoned in favour of charging by means of a metal stretcher whose two edges fitted on to a pair of rollers located in front of the furnace door. There was just one pair of rollers for a 3-muffle furnace. They slid along and could be placed before each of the three openings. A David Olère's sketch shows charging by this method.

¹³⁶ Automatic:
Pure invention. They were operated by hand.

¹³⁷ Twenty minutes
Rather short - more like half an hour.

¹³⁸ several thousand people could be cremated in a single day:
Even assuming that 3 corpses per muffle could be incinerated in 20 minutes, the 15 muffles of Krematorium II could take only 3240 corpses in 24 hours. If all the Krematorien were identical, this would give a total for the 4 Krematorien of 12,960 rather than the 20,000 claimed in the Hungarian and French versions. These results obtained on the basis of Nyiszli's data are first of all inconsistent with his own figures and in any event exaggerated, since the «throughput» of a type II/III Krematorium was between 1000 and 1500 in 24 hours and of type IV/V 500 in 24 hours.
The legend of 20,000 to 25,000 victims a day was transmitted by the members of the Sonderkommando.
(Multiplier for Krematorium II: 2 to 3)

THE MULTIPLIER

The average of the different multipliers almost exactly 4. If we apply this to the official total of 4 million victims we arrive at a figure much closer to reality: 1 million. This calculation is by no means scientific or rigorous, but it shows that DOCTOR NYISZLI, a respectable ACADEMIC, TRAINED IN GERMANY, multiplied the figures by FOUR when describing the murder of Krematorium II and when speaking of the number of persons or victims

PAUL RASSINIER'S four criticisms of Dr Miklós Nyiszli's book
«Médecin à Auschwitz»

[Published in English as «Auschwitz: a Doctor's eyewitness accounts»]

«*ULYSSE TRAHI PAR LES SIENS*» [Ulysses betrayed by his own people]
by Paul RASSINIER
Documents et Témoignages
Henry Coston, Paris, 1961, pages 22 and 23

[1]

My opinion gradually became accepted; they started to produce deportees on the other side of the iron curtain, with whom confrontation was naturally impossible, and who, claiming to have witnessed the agony, described it in detail.

The first was the Hungarian communist doctor Miklós, former prisoner at Auschwitz-Birkenau, whose he looked after, he says, the Kommando of the cremation furnaces and the gas chambers.

He no doubt thought he would throw me into confusion by speaking of Auschwitz, a camp where I had never been interned and on which I was morally unauthorised to testify. But he did not know that since I was something of a historian by profession I could be familiar enough with historical documents to be able to accept or refuse their authenticity after a reading. In his case, it was the figures he produced that revealed the imposture: 25,000 persons a day for almost five years. I had no difficulty in demonstrating that that amounted to 45 million, and that 4 crematoriums, each with 15 muffle, even with 3 bodies per muffle, would need over 10 years to burn all that.

He agreed and wrote to me that he would be satisfied with 2,500/100 corpses, not all of them Jews and not all killed in gas chambers.

But he maintained all the rest. I considered it futile to continue the argument with such an individual.

•

LE MENSONGE D'ULYSSE [Ulysses' lying tale]
by Paul RASSINIER
(Sixth edition)
La Vieille Taupe, Paris 1979, pages 236 to 240.
[Reprint of the Fifth edition of 1961]

[1]

And now here is the basis of the debate, which an example will make more understandable...

A new testimony on the German concentration camps has just appeared in Hungary and is being published by *Les Temps Modernes* in France: «SS Obersturmführer, Doctor Mengele by Dr NYISZLI MIKLÓS. It concerns the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp.

The first thought that comes to mind is that this testimony has been able to appear in Hungary only with the consent of Stalin, through the intermediary of the Minister-Chairman of the country, whose powers, in chairman of what corresponds to our CNE, are extensive enough to prevent any *Mémoires d'Ulysse* appearing there.

It would therefore be suspect for this reason alone.

But this is not the question.

Among other things, Dr Nyiszli Miklós claims this in the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp, four gas chambers" [The footnote reads in *Le Monde* of 9th January 1952, The Procureur Général André Boissac translates: forty-six] 200 metres long (in width specified), together with four other rooms of the same dimension to prepare the victims for the sacrifice, gassed 20,000 people a day, and four crematoriums, each with 15 muffle with 3 places, incinerated them as work proceeded. He also adds that in addition 5,000 other people were also killed each day using less modern methods and burnt in huge open air pits. He also adds that he personally witnessed these systematic massacres for a year.

I submit that all this is manifestly false, and without having been a prisoner oneself, a little common sense suffices to prove it.

The Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp having in fact been built at the end of 1939 and evacuated in January 1945, then occupying Dr Nyiszli-Miklós figure of 25,000 a day, we would have to admit that about 45 million people died there, 36 million of whom were incinerated in the four crematoriums after being gassed, and 9 million in the two open air cremation ditches.

While it is perfectly possible that the four gas chambers would have been able to gassify 20,000 people a day (in batches of 3,000 at a time according to the witness), it would have been absolutely impossible for the four crematoriums to keep up with this rate. Even if they had fifteen muffle with three places. And even if the operation took only 20 minutes, as claimed by Dr Nyiszli Miklós, which is again false.

Taking these figures as a basis, the total capacity of all the furnaces operating at the same time would still have been only 540 an hour or 12,960 per 24-hour day. And at this rate it would not have been possible to extinguish the fires until several years after the Liberation. Provided, of course, that not a minute was wasted over almost ten years. If now we make enquiries at the Père Lachaise cemetery about the cremation time required for three bodies in one muffle, we discover that the Auschwitz furnaces would still be burning today and would not be extinguished for some time to come!

I say nothing about the two open air pyres (which according to our author were 50 metres long, 6 wide and 3 deep) by means of which it is supposed to have been possible to burn 9 million bodies in 5 years...

There is also another impossibility, at least as concerns extermination using gas: all those who have studied the problem are agreed that «in the rare camps where they existed» (E. Kogon doubts) the gas chambers were not finally operational until March 1942 and from September 1944 orders were given, though these have not been found, any more than these they cancelled, that they were no longer to be used to gassify. As the note put forward by Dr Nyiszli Miklós, we then arrive at a figure of 18 million corpses for these two and a half years. A figure that his translator into French, Mr Tibor KREMERER, by what virtue of mathematics we do not know, summarily reduces to 6 million* [Footnote: I wrote to Dr Nyiszli Miklós to point out all these impossibilities. Here is what he replied: 2,500/100 victims! Without any other comment. This figure, which is closer to the truth and for which the gas chambers are certainly not solely responsible, already constitutes a considerable sum of abominations"].

And I would ask that new and twofold question, what possible point was there in thus exaggerating the degree of the horror and what was the result of that way of proceeding, which was widespread?

I have already answered the reply that in bringing things back to their true proportions in a universal theory of repression, I had no other objective than to minimise the crimes of Nazism.

I personally have another reply already ready, and which I no longer have any reason not to make public. But before giving this reply, I should like to submit for the reader's appreciation an incident significant of the state of mind of the age in which we live.

As a reader of *Temps Modernes*, I naturally informed this review of my reflections regarding the publicity I gave to Dr Nyiszli MIKLÓS. Here is the reply I received from Mr MERLEAU-PONTY.

«Historians will have to consider these questions. But in dealing with current news, this method of examining testimony results in throwing suspicion on what once is entitled to respect of it. And since at the present time the tendency is rather to forget the German camps, this requirement of rigorous historical truth encourages a falsification, of enormous proportion, which is tantamount to admitting that Nazism is a liability.»

I found this reply most instructive and did not bother to reply to Mr MERLEAU-PONTY that he for his part forgot the Russian, and even French, camps!

For if we have to accept that doctrine that the requirements of rigorous historical truth already encourages massive falsification in the treatment of news, one asks with some apprehension what monstrosity the large-scale falsification of news is likely to lead to on the historical level. We only have to imagine what historians of the future will think of the abominable Nuremberg Trial, which already in suspected of putting the culture of Humanity back two thousand years, that is: condemnation presented as a crime in all the history books, that of Vercingetorix by Julius Caesar for example.

The relationship that Mr MERLEAU-PONTY, professor of philosophy, establishes between causes and effects does not seem to be of exceptional rigor, thus proving that with everyone doing his job, in philosophy as elsewhere, our sacred cows are well protected!

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«LE VERITABLE PROCES EICHMANN ou les vainqueurs incorrigibles»
[The real Eichmann trial or the incorrigible victors]
by Paul RASSINIER
Les Sept soleils, Paris 1962, pages 245 to 249.

[3]

MEDECIN A AUSCHWITZ

Concerning «Médecin à Auschwitz» published by the Munich magazine *Quick*, in January 1961 (as «Auschwitz: Des Tagebuch eines Lagermedizins - The diary of a camp doctor and now just republished in France by Julliard, who had already published it in 1951 in *Mr Jean-Paul Sartre's review Les Temps Modernes*, I wrote to the publisher, Julliard. My letter and the reply are given below

16th November 1961

M. René Julliard, Directeur des Éditions Julliard
30 rue de l'Université - PARIS (7^e)

Sir,

I have just finished reading «Médecin à Auschwitz» by Dr Miklos Nyiszli, published by you last month, and of which I had already read large extracts under the title «SS Dr Obersturmführer Mengele» in the March and April 1951 issues of the Review «Les Temps Modernes».

At the time, in my double role of historian and doctor, thinking that publishing accounts that were manifestly in contradiction with material facts as regards the political behaviour of Nazism, one could do nothing but, if caught several times in flagrant delit, then know doubt in public opinion and gradually convince people that Nazism was a fable, I rose up against the tendency of publishers to print accounts of concentration camps by all and sundry. His account being, according to the extracts published in «Les Temps Modernes», full of impossibilities and contradictions, and the introduction by Mr Tibère Kremer adding even more, I therefore wrote to Dr Nyiszli, care of «Les Temps Modernes». Through Mr Tibère Kremer, 11 rue des Moines, Toulouse, I received a letter, that I hold at your disposal and which is in contradiction with the text you have just published. For example: Mr Tibère Kremer, in his 1951 introduction, spoke of 6,000,000 Jews in such a way that that was taken up by the entire press and attributed to the Auschwitz gas chambers. Dr Nyiszli himself says 2,500,000, and this was the figure accepted by the Crowe Court that condemned Höss, the camp commandant, to be hung, on 4th April 1947. Another example: arriving in Auschwitz at the end of May and speaking of 20,000 Jews being exterminated every day in the gas chambers, plus 5,000 to the open air pyres, Nyiszli states that that had been going on for FOUR years, and this is again found on page 50 of your book. Now, if there were gas chambers at Auschwitz, the documents produced at Nuremberg establish:

That they were ordered from Messrs Topf of Erfurt on 8th August 1942, but under the designation «Leichenkeller» and «Blasenhäuser»;

Set up in the camp in February-March 1943;

And the report by Dr Kasowitz establishes for its part - and that report was accepted at Nuremberg - that they did not operate from November 1943 to May 1944.

Excuse me, I could add to the list, but in view of the time that that would take me, I shall do so only if you are interested.

However, what I would draw your attention to is the German version of «Médecin à Auschwitz», published in installments in the Munich illustrated weekly «Quick», starting on 15th January 1961. This version is in formal contradiction with Mr Tibère Kremer's translation on virtually everything. I have noted 31 contradictions, not counting those due to faulty syntax nor those found in the text itself. An example of absolute contradiction: in the German text, the crematoriums handled 10,000 persons a day and in the French text 20,000. An example of contradiction by the author: the dead are shown on one page, and then twenty pages further on it is said that the hair was collected before sending people to the gas chamber. Furthermore, there are contradictions that Mr Kremer has made with respect to his first witness. A postal markman who has his target at 40-50 metres in the first witness succeeds only at 20 to 30 metres in the second; an inmate that is the most famous in the Third Reich in the first is the most famous to the world in the second, etc... It all boils down to one thing: either it is a document that is being made public and it should be the same in 1961 as in 1951, and in its German and French versions, or it is an apocryphal document. Now we are historians supposed to emerge honourably from this affair if we are called upon to talk about it? People are automatically going to say that it is an apocryphal document. And, since the description of the prisoners agrees neither in German nor in French with the official description taken from the documents produced at Nuremberg, if we are told that this Nyiszli never set foot in Auschwitz, able will be no lack of reasons for so claiming.

Example: the gas chambers, Miklos Nyiszli tells us, are 200 metres long, and the document produced at Nuremberg tells us that they have a floor area of 210 m², 400 m² or 580 m², giving widths of 1.05 m, 2 m and 2.90 m respectively, which is not reasonable. It is all the less likely to find 3,000 people are supposed to be able to enter and move around easily, there are piles down the center and benches on each side. Another example: in the French version two places are 500 m apart, in the German version 3 km, or vice-versa. Etc...

When that German version was published by «Quick», I wrote to Mr Tibère Kremer, but the letter was returned «no longer at this address». I wrote to «Quick», and was told that they could not send the letter on to Dr Nyiszli because he was dead (!)

Perhaps you could pass these remarks on to Mr Tibère Kremer, whose address you must have because the translation you published was obtained from him.

It remains only for me to ask you kindly not to misunderstand the purpose of the remarks I have taken the liberty of addressing to you. Historical documents should be respected and versions whose accuracy cannot be guaranteed should not be published without due consideration. As it happens, my studies requiring it, I have been looking for the original for fifteen years and nobody has ever been able to tell me where I could consult it. The best qualified historians in the world know nothing about it. The versions that have been made public are divergent and contradict one another from one page to the next. The author speaks of places he obviously never visited, otherwise he would not attribute a length of 200 metres to a room that would be only 1.05 m wide if it were true, or at most 2.90 m, etc... Such things lead to the conclusion that it must indeed be an apocryphal document.

If, therefore, you were able to provide me with enough certainties to enable me to write «authentic document» against the name of Dr Nyiszli in the references in my works, I should be particularly grateful.

Yours etc.,
Paul RASSINIER

THE REPLY FROM JULLIARD

8th December 1961

Mr Paul RASSINIER
36 rue Bapel, ASNIERES (Seine)

Sir,

Thank you indeed for having sent me the typed copy of your letter of 16th November

I am forwarding it this very day to Mr Tibère Kremer, translator of this book by Doctor Miklos Nyiszli «Médecin à Auschwitz», so that he can reply to you

I can however tell you that it is true that Doctor Nyiszli is dead, but his wife is still living. I have also shown his book to several deportees, who have confirmed its authenticity.

Yours etc.,
Pierre JAVET

I am still awaiting the reply from Mr Tibère Kremer

It is likely that I shall never receive it. First, on 24th October 1951, Mr Tibère Kremer sent me a reply from Dr Nyiszli to the letter I referred to when I wrote to Mr Julliard. Second, the research I have continued to carry out regarding this singular witness has resulted in my receiving information from New York (where the book translated by Mr Richard Seaver was published in 1951 with a preface by Professor Bruno Bettelheim), that Dr Nyiszli was dead long before his testimony was published for the first time.

If that is true, then this dead witness - yet another - would have the satisfaction of having written to me after his death.

And the silence of Mr Tibère Kremer would then be understandable.

No further certainties

III - THE WITNESS MIKLOS NYISZLI

(Miklós in Auschwitz)

In March 1951, in *Les Temps Modernes*, a monthly review run by Jean-Paul Sartre, a certain Tibère Kremer presented under the title *SS Obersturmführer Docteur Mengelke and the sub-title Journal d'un médecin déporté au camp d'extermination d'Auschwitz* (Diary of a doctor deported to the Auschwitz extermination) a false testimony on that camp which will remain one of the most abominable unscrupulous actions of all time. The author was, he said, a Hungarian Jew by the name of Miklos Nyiszli, a doctor by profession, as stated in the sub-title. These followed 27 pages (1655-1672) of selected extracts. The April issue of the review published a further 31 pages (1835-1866). This false testimony had just been presented to American public opinion by Mr Richard Semon with a preface by Professor Bruno Bettelheim. It was not until 1961 that it was published in its entirety, in German, in five issues of the illustrated Munich weekly *Quick* (January-February) with the title *Auschwitz*, and in French in a volume of 256 pages by the Julliard press under the title *Miklós in Auschwitz* and the sub-title *Souvenirs d'un médecin déporté*.

In 1951, it was a sensation in France: we were in the middle of the *Mengelke* (L'Espresso) trial, and my soul appeared all the more blackened in the eyes of the public. In 1961, it was again a sensation, throughout the world this time: we were in the middle of the Eichmann trial...

For he certainly had things to say, this Dr Miklos Nyiszli! And what is more, he produced the first detailed account of virtually all the horrors of which the Auschwitz camp had been the theatre, and in particular the exterminations in gas chambers. Among other things, he claimed that in that camp there were four gas chambers 300 m long (without specifying the width) together with four other rooms of the same dimension to prepare the victims for the sacrifices, approximately 20,000 people a day, and that four crematoriums, each with 15 muffs with 3 places, incinerated them as work proceeded. He also added that in addition 5,000 other people were also killed each day using less modern methods and buried in huge open pits. He afterwards said he personally witnessed these systematic massacres for eight months.

Lately (page 50 of the volume published by Julliard), he stated that when he arrived in the camp (end of May 1944 at the earliest), extermination by gas had been going on at the above rate for four years.

First observation: this gentleman did not know that, if there were gas chambers at Auschwitz, they were not finally installed and operational until 20th February 1943 (Document NO 4463, already cited).

Second observation: he did not know either that the gas chambers had officially and respectively a floor area of 210 m² for the first (precisely that of which he speaks), 400 m² for the second, and 580 m² for the last two. In other words, the gas chamber he saw and minutely described the operation of was 1.05 m wide. A long corridor, in other words. And as he states that during the entire was a row of columns with holes through which the gas escaped (these had to holes in the roof, where medical orderlies wearing Red Cross armbands threw in the tablets of Zyklon-B) and that on each side, along the walls, there were benches where people could sit (certainly not very deep, these benches) and that 3,000 people could circulate easily (they proceeded by batches of 3,000). I submit that either Dr Miklos Nyiszli never existed, or if he did exist he never set foot in the places he describes.

Third observation: if the Auschwitz gas chambers and the open air pyre exterminated 25,000 persons a day for four and a half years (for according to this witness they went on exterminating for six months after his arrival at the camp) that makes a total of

$$365 \times 4.5 = 1,642 \text{ days}$$

and in terms of corpses:

$$25,000 \times 1,642 = 41 \text{ million people}$$

of whom a little over 32 million were killed in the gas chambers and a little less than 9 million in the open air pyres.

It would add that, while it might have been possible for the four gas chambers to annihilate 20,000 persons a day (in batches of 3,000, says the witness) it would have been absolutely impossible for the four crematoriums to incinerate them at the same rate. Even if the furnaces had 15 muffs with three places. And even if the operation took only 20 minutes, as Dr Miklos Nyiszli claims, and which is again false.

On the basis of these figures, the total capacity of all the furnaces working in parallel would still only have been 540 an hour, or 12,960 per 24-hour day. And at this rate, it would not have been possible to extinguish the furnaces until some years after the Liberation. Provided, of course, that not a minute was wasted over almost ten years. If now we make enquiries at the Pörschach cemetery about the cremation time for three bodies in one muffle, we discover that the Auschwitz furnaces would still be burning today and would not be extinguished for some time to come!

If say nothing about the two open air pyres (which according to our author were 50 metres long, 6 wide and 3 deep) by means of which it is supposed to have been possible to burn 9 million bodies in the four and a half years.

There is also another impossibility, at least as regards extermination using gas, since if there were gas chambers in Auschwitz, they were officially operational only from 20th February 1943 until 17th November 1944, for 17 or 18 months. At the rate put forward by Dr Nyiszli Miklos, we then arrive at a figure of 11 million corpses and if we add the 9 million from the open air pyres, about twenty million which, by what virtue of mathematics we do not know, Mr Tibère KREMER, in his introduction to this «testimony», summarily reduces to 6 million. This is worrying. Especially if, as claimed by Dr Kremer, they were not functioning for 8 or 9 of these 17 or 18 months.

But that is not all. In contradiction with all who have given evidence on Auschwitz both before and after him, this Dr Miklos Nyiszli also contradicts himself with the others, it is he who says (p. 56) that the gas is given off from the Zyklon-B tablets «on contact with air», Höss having told us that it was «on contact with water vapour», it is he who tells us (p. 56) that «in five minutes» everybody is dead, Höss' Zyklon-B requiring «half an hour»; it is again he who tells us (p. 36) that the Hungarian Jews were transported to Auschwitz at the rate of «four or five trains a day», each of forty wagons, each containing ninety-five people (p. 15), or 3,600 in all, but (p. 18) «about five thousand people».

This last claim cannot fail to surprise (if one knows that the deportation of Hungarian Jews lasted 52 days (16th May to 7th July 1944) according to the *Kazimierz Rezer* and «Histoire de Joel Brand», an agreement on this point, while Höss said at Nuremberg «a period of four to six weeks» (T.XI, p. 412).

Let us calculate on the basis of the four possible hypotheses.

1. 4 trains of 3,600 persons = 14,400 people per day or 740,800 in 52 days;
2. 4 trains of 3,000 persons = 12,000 people per day or 624,000 in 52 days;
3. 5 trains of 3,600 persons = 18,000 people per day or 936,000 in 52 days;
4. 5 trains of 5,000 persons = 25,000 people per day or 1,300,000 in 52 days;

However, in statistics of Jewish origin themselves, the highest figure given for the Hungarian Jews is 437,000 people. I leave the reader to draw his own conclusions on the figures given by this singular witness. I would add that the *Kazimierz Rezer* tells us that on 19th March 1944, Eichmann arrived in Budapest with a commando of 190 men and that 1,000 wagons were at his disposal for the operation of transporting the Jews. If, as Dr Miklos Nyiszli tells us, the trip took four days, it is likely, as the convey in which I was transported from Compiegne to Buchenwald took that long - then in from the sixth day there would have been no wagons left in Budapest station and the operation would have been suspended until the ninth day. That is so, even without taking account of the number of wagons necessary for bringing all the Jews from all parts of Hungary to the assembly points. The Judgement of the Jerusalem Court that condemned Eichmann to death in fact completely demolished that testimony by declaring (point 112) that, «in less than two months, 434,251 persons were deported to 147 goods trains, at a rate of 3,000 per train, men, women and children, or 2 to 3 trains a day on average», and as we shall see below, this new version is no more valid.

There are countless passages in Dr Miklos Nyiszli's testimony where he contradicts himself: the crematoriums being an action, his nose and throat are assailed by «the smell of burning flesh and hair» (p. 19) but «the dead are shown» (p. 60) after their removal from the gas chamber and before cremating them, then, «rough hands cut off the tresses of their well-groomed hair» (p. 164) before they were sent to the bath and on to the gas chamber. And many other examples.

But, what is the most significant is what one discovers in comparing this French version of the so-called testimony with the German version published in installments in the Munich illustrated weekly «Quick», starting on 15th January 1961. In this version, the crematoriums incinerated a total of only 10,000 persons a day instead of 20,000. A glib madman who has his target at 40-50 metres in French succeeds only at 20 to 30 metres in German. An estimate that is the most farfetched in the last of the most naive as the world in the second, «beautiful rage» become «brass rage». The Auschwitz camp, which could contain «up to 300,000 people» is now only «a cage», the figure having disappeared between 1951 and 1961! The author, who had in fact been dead for a long time as we shall see below - found out through an intermediary that at Nuremberg Höss had stated that «it had contained up to 140,000 people» (T.XI, p. 416). A distance of 3 km was reduced to 500 m, etc., etc.

It all boils down to one thing: either it is an authentic document and it should be the same in 1961 as in 1951, and in its German and French versions, or it is an apocryphal document. The fact that there two versions agree on virtually nothing, and neither of them with for example, the description of the premises derived from the documents produced at Nuremberg, authorizes us to claim at least that this Dr Miklos Nyiszli never set foot in Auschwitz. I insist, at least, it should have suspected as much from the very first page of his testimony: does he not say there of the convey in which he is transported, leaving the Tatra behind us, we passed through the «stations of Lublin and Cracow» (to go to Auschwitz from the Hungarian-Romanian border), which proves that not only did he not know the Auschwitz camp, and never saw it, but did not even know the route that led there.

And in Paris he managed to find a publishing house willing to put this imbecility in circulation among the public!

In April 1951, when extracts from his testimony were published by *Les Temps Modernes*, I wrote to him. On 24th October of the same year he replied to me through Mr Tibère Kremer that in reality there were «250,000 people exterminated at the gas chambers of Auschwitz».

In February 1961, after having read the complete text in Quack, I wrote to Mr Tibère Kremer, but the letter was returned -no longer at this address-. I wrote to «Quack», and was told that they could not send the letter on to Dr Nysztz because he was dead (!)

In November 1961, having read the complete text in the French version, I wrote to the publisher Juillard asking him to hand something to pass on the above observations, at least to Mr Tibère Kremer, whose address he must have had, since he had just published his translation. I added:

«Historical documents should be respected and versions whose accuracy cannot be guaranteed should not be published without due consideration. As it happens, my studies requiring it, I have been looking for the original for fifteen years and nobody has ever been able to tell me where I could consult it. The best qualified historians in the world know nothing about it. The versions that have been made public are divergent and contradict one another from one page to the next. The author speaks of places he obviously never visited, etc... If, therefore, you were able to provide me with enough information to enable me to write «authentic documents» against the name of Dr Nysztz in the references in my works, I should be particularly grateful.»

On 16th December, in the name of the Juillard publishing house, of which he is one of the literary directors, Mr Pierre Javet wrote me in reply:

«Thank you indeed for having sent me the typical copy of your letter of 16th November

I am forwarding it this very day to Mr Tibère Kremer, translator of the book by Doctor Miklós Nysztz, «Médicin à Auschwitz», so that he can reply to you.

I can however tell you that it is true that Doctor Nysztz is dead, but his wife is still living. I have also shown his book to several depositories, who have confirmed its authenticity.

(Signed) Pierre JAVET»

I am still awaiting the reply from Mr Tibère Kremer.

It is likely that I shall never receive it. First, on 24th October 1951, Mr Tibère Kremer sent me a reply from Dr Nysztz to the letter I referred to when I wrote to Mr Juillard. Second, the research I have continued to carry out into singular witnesses has resulted in only recovering the information from New York, where the book was published in 1951; that Dr Nysztz was dead long before his testimony was published for the first time.

If this is true, then this dead witness - yet another - would have the distinction of having written to me after his death.

And the silence of Mr Tibère Kremer would then be understandable.

No further comment.

Comments on Paul Raststiner's texts

I have presented above the four successive texts written by Paul Raststiner to demolish «Médicin à Auschwitz» by Dr Miklós Nysztz, translated into French from the Hungarian by Mr Tibère Kremer. The reasoning is valid, but the references are archaic and superficial. Paul Raststiner could not or would not visit Auschwitz in «communist» Poland, the main reason being perhaps for ill-health. All his criticisms are sustained by this deficiency, though it must be pointed out that in the course of time his attacks became more precise and detailed. From a refusal to argue «with such an individual», written in 1961, he comes round three years later to throwing the blame - as I did at first - on Tibère Kremer, who is not at fault, and thinking that the account was not by a authentic former prisoner of Belsen.

Although some of his criticisms remain valid, Raststiner's testimony - perhaps no longer has any place. Dr Miklós Nysztz was an authentic witness, which can easily be proved. But the mystery of the «multiplier» still remains complete.

Conclusions

The testimonies of doctors BENDEL and NYSTZ are, of course, precious. Certain events or details that they describe cannot have been invented. They must have been there, in Belsen and in 1944.

Benel's accounts, contrary to all that we knew, that there were two gas chambers in the basement of Krematorium II, and he turns out to be right. Each had two columns for the introduction of Zyklon B, and he gives the approximate dimensions in his description. I believed in a long time - and I was not the only one - that he was assembling Leichenkeller 2, the underground room, in a gas chamber, as opinion reinforced by the description of the entrance as being a «double door of solid oak», a description applying above all to the double door for access to the underground room from inside the building. Henryk TAUBER, the only witness to make a 95% reliable declaration, describes the distance of Leichenkeller 1, the gas chamber, into two in order to be able to «evacuate small groups, which implies that in the light of experience, the 21m² of Leichenkeller 1 was found to be too big for the number of victims received. In the case of a normal conveyance, and depending on the collections, 60 to 1200 people were destined in a single day to be gassed. This credibility, established through cross-checking with Tauber for the arrangement of the premises of Krematorium II, which he seems to have visited but rarely, is not valid for the other Krematoriums and is no longer acceptable as regards the figures. Here the exaggeration is

manifest and sounds like the rehearsing of stories developed in their own closed world by members of the Sonderkommando.

Dr Benel, prisoner number 167,460, was writing not to have better described his experience after the war. I reproach him for having used medical qualifications and his status in one who had extricably escaped from the Auschwitz death camp in order to have his statements accepted as the absolute truth and to declare himself infallible. His medical training was found in the grade of his personality, his strange attitude and a desire for vengeance without pity for all SS men - and who could blame him for that? But he was not a doctor. And another reason for being so categorical was surely the desire not to dwell on his past as a medical experiment in the laboratory but of the Gypsy camp. This attitude led him to put forward and maintain statements that I now consider, with present knowledge and in the light of contemporary documents, as untrue.

The case of Dr Miklós NYSTZ's life is baffling. In my opinion, it contains more important evidence of an administrative nightmare experienced by the thousands of men of the Sonderkommando. Located at the very center of the madness of the Krematoriums, Nysztz plunged into it even more than his companions as one of the protagonists working for Dr Mengele.

It was inevitable that some mad medical men should «take advantage» of the unprecedented opportunities opened up by the death camps. Mengele was the man who thrived in this criminal environment. Nysztz, body shaker after the Sonderkommando revolt of 16th October 1944, was not to Mengele «Herr Oberamtsverwalter, this environment is unsuitable for scientific research. Wouldn't it be possible to transfer the dissecting room to a better place? Mengele's only reply was «What's wrong? Getting sentimental? Nysztz had not understood anything. Mengele, notorious for his crimes against humanity, has now become the symbol of the insatiable medical man.

Nysztz's has a distorted appreciation of the SS «pseudo-science» and of the «research into the causes of the phenomenon of twin births» undertaken by Mengele. It was not the race that most people reject with horror and disgust. However, politicians can sometimes overcome this feeling when they are interested in this work in some ways.

As the other end of the world, up to 1945, others were using the same corpse practices as Mengele, but in a specific field: biological warfare. Those of «Unit 731» succeeded. The Japanese military surgeon Shiro ISHII was able to negotiate with the Americans over the only known results concerning experiments carried out under scientific control demonstrating the direct effects of agents of biological warfare on human beings. «La Guerre chimique et biologique» by Daniel Krich, Editions Pierre Belfond, Paris 1982, pages 153 to 162. Mengele's «research» has never been accepted as anybody and it is now easy to obtain the results (multiple births) he wanted to achieve.

Nysztz follows traditional morality in judging Mengele, which is all the easier for him in that he received a traditional German university education from 1927 to 1930 in the Forensic Institute of Breslau (Wrocław since 1945), ending with «honorary» Doctorate in Medicine from the «Seltsamerweise auf Grund des Selektionenmaterial des Breslauer Geschichtsarchivs laudatio von 1937 - May 1930» (Citations of suicide documents in the documents of the Breslau Forensic Institute dated June 1927 to May 1930). Undoubtedly a scientist, having also spent time in America, Dr Miklós Nysztz was in the habit of writing PRECISE reports where errors had to be avoided. However in reporting the history of the Krematoriums he is marked with a great fault, when he repeats what he has been told without being able to verify the facts (pages 44 and 45).

«From the conversation I learned the history of the crematorium. Tens of thousands of prisoners had been taken to the gas chamber and finished there. Every single person was killed. Every single person was killed with them. They had worked day and night, often without food in stock, dressed in mere tatters, so that these internal court records: whose first victims they became, might be finished at once.

Since then four years had passed. Countless thousands had since climbed down from the bus cars and crossed the thresholds of the crematoriums.»

Benel described the legend in a similar fashion.

But when Nysztz writes (p. 94):

«Glancing upward, I noticed that the four lightning rods placed at the corners of the crematorium chamber were welded and bent, the result of the previous night's high temperatures.»

it suffices to compare this with David Ohm's sketch (see document 89, Part II, Chapter 3) of Krematorium III to see a faithful illustration of the text. But both commit a slight error.

Photograph PMO neg. no. 3995/507 shows the south side and west end of Krematorium IV wall, rising 2 metres above the chimney, four lightning conductors that are not at the four corners but in the centre of each of the four sides of the chimney, 4 metres visible at a distance of 100 metres the distance in which the photograph was taken - they become totally invisible beyond 200 metres. Only prisoners working within the precincts of Krematoriums II and III could see and remember them. This, admittedly minor, detail could not be repaired.

Nysztz described the Sonderkommando revolt poorly, because he did not participate in it. His account is second hand but it represents the words of an SS man. When he claims to have seen (page 116):

«the red dead roof and supporting beams of number three crematorium (p. 117) below, followed by an enormous apart of frame and black smoke»,

he is inventing, not having been able to see directly as the start of the fire because there was a distance of 100 metres from Krematorium II and IV and he could not see through Krematorium III, a wood, and sewage treatment station II. What is more, the roof of Krematorium IV was not of RED TILES, like those of Krematoriums II and III, but of BLACK ROOFING FELT, which explains how it caught fire so easily (photographic proof, PMO neg. no. 3995/509 and 465).

The problem of the completely false figures in Chapter Seven still remains, however. An author such as Raststiner can easily, without knowing Belsen, see that the text contains errors and contradictions and with the aid of his documentation he can see that the figures are incompatible with reality. The set very serious criticisms by Kaulner, who was short of reference material, are now obvious. These are the original Belsen drawings and the remaining ones, a more detailed analysis reveals that on average the figures have been multiplied by 10. But not ALL the figures. The distances outside Krematorium II are correct, well estimated, but as soon as Nysztz enters the Krematorium building and starts talking about the «interior», everything goes wrong. I consider it to be quite impossible that these wrong figures could simply be «careless», since they are in such stark contrast to the precision and truth of other passages in the book. At far as the information given at present, responsibility for these data remains with Nysztz, who does not seem to be as responsible as he is for the contrary an authentic, loud and intelligent witness, in possession of all his faculties.

I judge both men now severely, because I have a universally training myself and exercise a profession where I have to be precise and avoid error at all costs. It is impossible that they should have «spells» their imagination, which ought to have been off the very best in view of their training, responsible that through their account doubts were raised that led to the creation of revisionism, whose very existence - and this is perfectly understandable - «blocks» surviving depositories who are unable to understand the text. It is certain that the text contains errors in the reality of their inferences and the loss of their loved ones through denying the existence of homicidal gas chambers and presenting the concentration camps as «Tabu Mörderische» - holiday villages.

The historical methodology that consists of relying on two testimonies, considered to be «scientific», such as the accounts of Benel and Nysztz together with the part of the text - «don't say it, I am not a fan» - that Nysztz considered that necessarily leads to inspection (for example in «Les chambres à gaz» edited by Q. Weller, p. 13, Benel's account is cut with no explanation that the text is not the original, but a copy of the «chambres à gaz» Secret d'Etat, p. 205, the phrase concerning the presence of Himmler, considered unlikely, disappears). Not authenticated by original documents, their early, precise, indigestible descriptions are full of imprecisions and more and more imprecisions as they go on. Those who use testimony without taking such precautions cause the careful and logical reader to spontaneously reject the material. The «story» parts of the accounts, of low or zero credibility, often systematically «forget» are put forward BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE by the revisionist authors.

PART THREE

CHAPTER 3

DEPOSITION OF 24th MAY 1945

BY HENRYK TAUBER

former member of the Sonderkommando
of Krematorien I, II, IV and V

Introduction

The testimony by Henryk TAUBER (Documents 1,2,3 and 4) is the best that exists on the Barkau Krematorien. Being 95% historically reliable, it stands head and shoulders above the rest. Though without the benefit of higher education, Henryk Tauber, a modest man with no desire to seek the limelight, remembers perfectly. He was the only one to give a precise and detailed description of the equipment and working of the Krematorien. His extremely accurate account has been used little if at all by the historians, quite simply because they could not understand it. Tauber's name was not as much as mentioned during the «Faurisson trials». The reason for this is that in order to be able to understand and above all to appreciate the quality of Tauber's account, one must have firmly in mind the arrangement of the premises.

When Mrs Dorota Ryszka, a PMO interpreter, translated it orally for me, I closed my eyes and was able to follow Tauber, despite the deadpan style of his deposition, as he guided me through the different parts of Krematorium II. Of the many accounts, testimonies and confessions with which I was familiar, none had the accuracy of Tauber's account. I felt that it should be presented in its entirety and so as far as close as possible to the original. I used two translations of the Polish text, one by Mrs Dorota Ryszka and the other by Mr Adam Rutkowski, translations that I have adapted by including my own remarks and references so that the reader, too, can let himself be guided by Henryk Tauber.

Some people may reproach him for his attitude, accuse him of having taken his work as a «clocker» too much to heart, and to have masked the sordid reality of the cremations by speaking in such a technical fashion. For my part, I refuse to level the slightest criticism at this exceptional witness. His neutral tone, free from grandiloquent opprobrium or political references, is at the limit of the bearable and is exactly suited to the historical detachment necessary for a factual and dispassionate study of the «murder weapons».

Henryk Tauber's deposition enabled me at the last moment to authenticate the testimony of Dr Paul Bendel that I was on the point of invalidating.



Document 1



Document 2



Document 3



Document 4

Documents 1 and 2.

PMO photos: neg. nos 2133464 and 165

Henryk TAUBER in civilian clothes in May or June 1945 at the time of his testimony to the Polish judge Jan Sehn. His face gives us a subjective idea of the value of his testimony, which was for Jan Sehn, a vital element in his research into the cremation perpetrators in the former KL Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Documents 3 and 4

PMO photos: neg. nos 213346123 and 122

Henryk TAUBER in May or June 1945 having put on 24-odd cycles out over his new civilian clothes for the benefit of the photographers. On his chest is his prison number 98142, with the red triangle of the political prisoner superseded by a yellow one indicating that he is a Jew. It appears that Tauber probably owed his survival to his very open, inflated forecast of «starvation», which made him too indisputable and precious for the SS to be able to liquidate him before January 1945.

DEPOSITION

In Auschwitz, on 24 May 1945, Jan Sehn, examining judge in Cracow, member of the Central Commission for the Investigation of Hostile Crimes in Poland, at the request of, in the presence of and with the participation of the vice-prosecutor of the Cracow Regional Court, Edward Pechalski, pursuant to Article 254 and in connection with Articles 107 and 115 of the Criminal Code, interrogated former Auschwitz concentration camp prisoner 90124, who testified as follows.

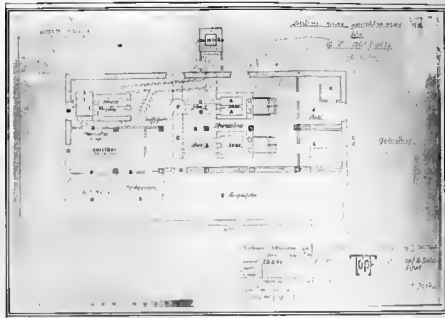
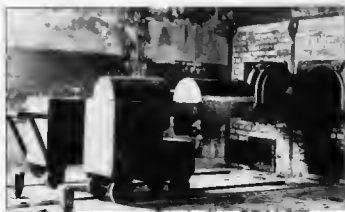
My name is HENRYK TAUBER, I was born on 8th July 1917 in Chrzamow, son of Abraham Tauber and Minda nee Szajnman, unmarried, of the Jewish faith, of Polish nationality and citizenship, shoemaker by trade, domiciled at 1 Grunwaldka Street, Chrzamow, with no police record.

Until the war broke out in 1939, I lived with my immediate family of 12 persons in Chrzamow. Of this family, one of my brothers-in-law and myself are the only ones to have survived the war. Up to now I have had no news of the fate of one of my brothers who went to Russia. After many expatriations and displacements, my family and I were separated and I found myself in the Cracow ghetto. There, I was arrested in November 1942 and incarcerated in the Jewish police prison at 31 Jozefinska Street. On 19th January 1943, I was transferred to Auschwitz with 400 Jews from the Cracow ghetto and 800 Aryans from Montelupich [Cracow garrison]. This transport consisted of about 800 men and 400 women. On our arrival at Auschwitz station, the women were separated from the men and installed in the women's camp in Barkana. Included in a group of 250 Jewish prisoners and about 550 Aryans, I was assigned to block 27, sector B1b. This block was unfinished, without windows, doors or built. Later on, I went to blocks 22 and 20 in the same sector of the camp. I spent a few days in Buna [Monowitz] from where, because of typhus detected in my group, I was transferred back to Barkana and put in block 21 of sector B1b. In the meantime, there were the formalities of registration, during which I stated that I was a qualified filter-mechanic by trade.

At the beginning of February 1943, Unterscharführer [sergeant] Groll of the Arbeitsdienst [labour service] and prisoner Mikulaj of the Arbeitsamt [labour deployment] came to our block and selected from among the prisoners living there some specialists for what was supposed to be work in the Auschwitz workshops. Twenty young Jews were picked out. We were then taken to block IV [main camp] where we were examined by a doctor who declared us all fit. The same day we were taken by truck, under SS guard, to Auschwitz and installed in Bunker 7 [concent cell] in block XI [main camp]. The next day we, the twenty prisoners, were taken under a stronger SS guard, to the bunker in which it, as we learned later, Krematorium I was installed. There met seven Jews, among them Jankowski and three Poles. The Capo was Mirek Morawa from Cracow. He was a tall, blond, slim man about 24 years old. One of his brothers was a boxer in Cracow. I heard that Morawa's family lived in Dobinich [a district of Cracow]. From the very beginning of his activity in the first crematorium [Kr I], he was a very strict Capo who carried out the work ordered by the Germans in conformity with the regulations. Later on, he was promoted to

Obercapo [principal Capo] of Barkana Krematorium II and III. There, he tried to live on good terms with us, for there were then about 400 of us and we had been working there long enough to be ready for anything and to let nobody spit in our plate [Polish expression, «not let anyone walk over us»].

The day after our arrival at the crematorium [Kr I] [Document 5], an SS Unterscharführer [sergeant] whose name I forget gave us a pep talk [this scene took place in the northwest yard of Krematorium I, which was at that time enclosed by a fence]. He warned us that we were going to have to do unpleasant work to which we would have to accustom ourselves, and which after a certain time would present no more difficulty. He spoke in Polish the whole time. Never during all his speech did he once mention the fact that we would have to burn the bodies of human beings. As soon as he finished the speech, he ordered «Los, an der Arbeit!» [OK, get to work!] and started beating our heads with a bludgeon. With Mirek Morawa, he drove us towards the bunker [Leichenhalle, or morgue] of Krematorium I, where we discovered some hundreds of corpses. They were in heaps, one on top of the other, dirty and frozen. Many of them were covered in blood, their skulls crushed, others had their stomachs open, probably as the result of autopsy. All were frozen and we had to separate them from one another with axes. Beaten and harassed by the Unterscharführer and Capo Morawa, we dragged these corpses to the «bajownia» [German-Polish term meaning «boiler room», where there were three furnaces, each with two muffle] [Document 6]. I designate as «muffle», in conformity with the nomenclature used by the Soviet Commission, the corpse incineration hearths [A - see document 3].



Document 3 Drawing of Krematorium I
[PMH neg no 201/61]

Drawing No D 9042 by J A Taup & Sohn of Erfurt dated 15/IV/41
Enthält eine Erbscherungsskizze für KL Auschwitz
Installation of a cremation facility for Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

[This drawing concerns the installation of the third furnace, «Neuer Ofen» furnace, fired with a Druckluftgebläse/pulsed air blowers.]

Document 6
[Photo on page 85 of «KL Auschwitz» published by the Auschwitz International Committee - undated]

Present state of the interior of the Krematorium I furnace room. Two of the three corpse charging trolleys found after the liberation of the camp have been put back in place before the cremation muffle. They are accumulating the one on the left lacks a wheel and the one in the foreground lacks the maneuvering handle. This photograph enables anybody who has not actually visited Auschwitz to form an opinion on the value of one testimony that claimed it was possible to introduce TWELVE corpses into a single muffle. This photo makes it clear that even the figure of five - much more - put forward by Henryk Tauber is in the line of the possible.

In the *be-bores* [B, *Olenyuknyurces* now known as *Heizmannschurces*], we put the *cyprace* on a trolley with a high platform that ran on rails installed between the furnaces. This trolley (rent from the door of D[ist]inkel [B, *Lea* *heizmannschurce*], where the *cyprace* were, on a trolley [F, *Drehscheibe*]/[a]bal that crossed the boiler rooms, on broad rails [G]. From these there ran narrow rails [G] on which the trolley itself lined, leading to each muffin. The trolley ran on four metal wheels. Its strong frame was in the form of a box, and its weight (when we weighed it was stones and scrap metal) was about 200 *heavens* (about 160 *heavens*) (two meters long) and it had five *cyprace* on this [first we used the *cyprace* to go towards the furnace and the belly upwards, then two more the other way towards the furnace and the belly downwards, and finally we put the fifth one on the way down and seemed to embrace the other bodies below.

This number is possible only with skeletal corpses. Henryk Tambar formally states below: "With -normals- adult bodies, it would be difficult to charge more than two or three at a time. But, when a witness such as Allen Pajzdyberg, alias Stanisław Janowski, states in a deposition of April 1945 concerning his stay in Krematorium I 'in one of these openings (nuffelse) there was room for TWELVE VE corpses, but we put no more than five because that way they burned more rapidly', etc., one is justified in concluding, as I figure that is pure propaganda. Whoever has seen the crematoriums in Germany knows and, after a silent prayer, has seen at least the first few burning results of the two reconstructed furnaces of Krematorium I." The author does not offer any further explanation. We find here the famous multiplicity of loss used by Dr Miklos Nyiszli in normal cremation capacity of four corpses multiplied by four corpses to twenty.

The weight of this load sometimes exceeded that of the hulls, and in order to prevent the hulls from tipping up and spilling the corpses we had to support the side by slipping a plank underneath it. Once the side was loaded, we pushed it into the muzzle. Once the corpses were introduced into the lance, we held them there by means of a metal bolt that slid on top of the emerging side, while other prisoners pulled the muzzle back, leaving the corpses behind. There was a handle at the end of the slide for gripping and pulling back the sliding bolt. Then, we closed the door [of the muzzle]. In Kremenaur I, there were three, two of the lances, as I have already mentioned. Each muzzle could accommodate five human bodies. Thirty corpses could be incinerated at the same time in this crematorium. At the time when I was working there, in the first half of 1942, I saw three corpses in one muzzle (look up in the first and second half of the book) and the bodies of very young people, real skeletons, which hurried very slowly down from the experience gained by observing cremation in Kremenaur I. I saw that that the bodies of laid people burn very much faster. The process of incineration is accelerated by the combustion of human fat, which thus produces additional heat.

All three furnaces were located in a hall that I have called the 'shofes room'. Near the entrance to this hall, there was one furnace [H] with its hearth [L] firebox [J] facing the entrance door [M] and the mufles towards the interior of the hall. The two others faced in the opposite direction, mufles towards the entrance door and hearths towards the

[These precise details may appear superfluous to a current visitor to Krematorium I, for he will see exactly what Henryk Tabor described, but at the end of May 1945, the date of this deposition, the interior of Krematorium I was still arranged as an air raid shelter. The initial state of the premises had to be established with the help of prisoners' memories. This made it possible to reconstitute the interior, two of the furnaces being rebuilt using the metal parts still remaining and a chimney being erected).

Behind the [sh]oker room, there was a small coke store [L] with a little office beside it [K, Schreibzettel/Schreibzettel] and then on the right the store for the [ur]p [L] containing human debris. The entrance [sh]oker [M] which now leads to the coal that I call the "shoeler room" was put in later [Document 7]. When I was working in Krematorium I, that door did not exist. We used to enter through the corridor [Vorraum] to the "shoeler room" through the door [N] in the left of the entrance [O]. There were two [sh]oker doors of this type [on the right of the entrance]. The first door [Q], on the right of the corridor, opened on an auxiliary staircase [Q], from originally designated - Aufstiegsstairway/steigende where the spare first burn were kept. The men from [steigende] ran past by my track, used to undress there. When I was working in Krematorium I, I shot in the bunker [L] at the crematorium at the part of the building where they gassed people was known as the [sh]oker [L]. Siechtumsraum, etc. etc.

...that people [they were] of different nationalities. During the war I was working in the underground and we were shut up in the coke tower. There we were kind of like prisoners in the bunker. All the corpses had a firearm wound in the neck (Gehechschus). The executions were always carried out by the same SS man from the Political Section [Politische Abteilung], accompanied by another SS from the same Section who made out the death certificates for those shot. Capo Morawa was not with us in the coke tower during the war. He was in the barracks. We did not see him there. We carried out our work as usual. We were not afraid of the SS because he will warn and blow them off what he did during his time. We carried out our work as usual. We were not afraid of the SS because he would not shoot. The second dog [R]ose [in the night of the execution] was a small soon [SS, initially designated Wachmann/corpsman] watching [them] where the human ashes were put. We passed through his room to reach the bunker [E] proper, used during my time there for shooting victims and which previously has been used for gassing people. In the bunker, about 90 percent of the Sonderkommandos were gassed every day. The prisoners who were left in Krametsau, I, where I was sent, told me that. I worked in Krematorium I, where they began firing 1943 to 4th March 1944, just over one month after finishing all its time, we were put in bunker [cut] 7 to block XI. We were in block 22 Jews, because at the beginning of February, two demerits, Czech Jews, were sent to join us, coming from Borkenau. The seven or eight men working in Krematorium I were also locked in block XI, along with the Czechs. Poles Jozef and Waciek, who were arrested with me, lived in block XV, where they appeared in the camp, unlike block XIV, where entry and movement moves were unrestricted. Besides the two Czech Jews, Jozef came to join our group during that month Staszek and Witalek, whose family name I

have forgotten and Wladyslaw Bishop from Cracow and Jan Agrestowski from the commune of Pas in the Warsaw region. I remember their names well, because I wrote letters to their families in German for them. These last four Poles were [also] housed in block XV. When we left for work, the old Kommando that had preceded us at Krematorium II was called «Kommando Krematorium I». Our group, that is the 22 Jews from block XI and the four Poles who were deported to it, was called «Kommando Krematorium II». We did not understand why there was this separate designation. Later on, we understood that we had been sent there for one month's practical training in Krematorium I in order to prepare us for working in Krematorium II.

I would emphasize that the *kremlenowitsy* and the *Kommandos* who worked in them came under the Political Section. The personal records of the prisoners working in these *Kommandos* were kept in the Political Section. Our *StiK* were not sent to the [camp] hospital, but to an infirmary set up for us in a closed block. The block we occupied was isolated. In Auschwitz [the camp] itself, this was closed block XI. Authorization to leave the *Kommandos* and transfer into another did not depend on the *Arbeitsamt* [labour service], but on the Political Section. I worked in the *StiK* in the Pech, a French Jew. He was a good specialist who also looked after the *StiK*. I recalled him, thanks to them, to get out of the *StiK* and into the *Arbeitsamt*. I called myself in another *Kommando*. The Political Section heard of this, but I was myself in another *Kommando*. I was not [had] [lived for some months in an open block. During my training in Krematorium I, Untersturmführer [SS Second Lieutenant] Gräbner and Oberscharführer [senior staff-sergeant] Kwakernell were the overseers for the Political Section. I remember Kwakernell having to ask Gräbner to give him another prisoner because one of our group had died. Gräbner replied that he could not give him one [*Zugang* [new arrival], but if the *MeiK* [it killed four more Jews, he would supply a few arrivals]. He also asked *MeiK* [Meirow] as to what he had with *MeiK* [how many Jews he asked]. Gräbner took hold of an iron fire bar and said he would hit us with it. At the end of the first day's work in Krematorium I, the *StiK* and my group decided they were sick and stayed in the block. The four of us pulled out the bodies of the bunker of Krematorium I, we found their naked corpses with many stab wounds. I suppose they must have been given jobs [intra-campic] mysterious work in the camp hospital. A month later, of 22 Jews, there remained only 12. On 12 April 1943, my group, including one Wladyslaw Tomczak of Cieszyn and the four Poles [have already mentioned] [Hilshup and the others], was transferred to Birkenau and installed in closed block II of sector Bb. I started later that Tomczak had already worked in the crematorium [K] in 1941. He was an old hand, with a prison number of 14081 and something, and before being detailed to our group in March [1943] had worked for a while in the mill and the abattoir [go butchery, the Polish *szlachta* - having both meaning], where, with 49 other people, he was treated on suspicion of engaging in clandestine activities. All were arrested on 12 April 1943, taken to block M and condemned to death by the SS official, Untersturmführer Gräbner. I recognized Tomczak, just before his execution and transferred him to the crematorium. Tomczak worked as *Capo* of the *Kommando* employed in Krematorium I, worked in Krematorium IV. In the month of August [1943], [that] it was, Tomczak was summoned to the Political Section, from where that very day Oberscharführer Kwakernell brought his corpse that we incinerated in Krematorium V. Although Tomczak's head was wrapped as a corpse, I identified him by his large size. Kwakernell personally supervised

The introduction of his body into the furnace, then went off. We then opened the door of the furnace, unwound the sack and recognized his face very well. He was a good man, hard working, decent with us, and we had told him about our clandestine activities.

On 6th March 1993, we were taken under SS guard to Krematorium II. The construction of this crematorium was explained to us by Capo [Jailers] August [Brick] (see Document X), who had just arrived from Buchenau and where he had also been working in the crematorium. Krematorium II had a basement where there was an underground room (Aufladerkammer) [2 - see Document VI] and a bunker, or in other words a chamber (Zechenkeller/corridor cellar) [1]. To go from one cellar to the other, there was a corridor [3] in which there came from the exterior a double staircase, one corridor [4] and a slide for throwing the bodies into the furnace [5] and a slide for throwing the bodies into the gas chamber [6]. There were also two rooms [7] that were inserted in the corridor [6]. People went through the door at the end of the corridor [2] into the corridor [3], then from there through a door on the right [2a] into the gas chamber [1]. A second staircase [6a] running from the grounds [north yard] of the crematorium gave access to the corridor [3]. To the left of this stairway, in the corner [of the corridor], there was a little room [7] where hats, spectacles and other effects were stored. On the right there was another small room [8] used as a store for easels in Zytchon [6]. There, the description could lead to confusion. It should be noted, as Berndt Tauber in describing the disposition of rooms 7 and 8, says, that the room [7] was in the basement. In the right corner of the corridor, on the right side of the door [2] to the underground room, there was a little [10] to transport the corpses [10] to the crematorium. On the ground floor, people went from the crematorium yard to the crematorium [11] via a stairway [10], surrounded by iron rails. Over the entrance door there was a sign with the inscription 'Zum Baden und Desinfizieren' [to both and disinfectant, written in several languages]. In the underground room [12] there were wooden benches and numbered clothes hangers along the walls [Document 10]. There were no windows and the lights were on all the time. The underground rooms also had water taps [5] and drains for the waste water. From the underground room people went into the gas chamber [1] through a door [2a] above which was hung a sign marked 'Zum Baden' [to the bath]. This sign appeared in several languages, I remember the word 'bath' [Badezimmer] repeated in several languages. From the gas chamber they went through the door [2] to the corridor [3]. From the corridor [3] it was a wooden door, made of two layers of thin planks of wood arranged like parquet. Between these layers there was a single sheet of material sealing the edges of the door [3] and the rails of the frame were also fitted with sealing strips of peepholes. At about head height or an average man this door had a round glass peephole (see Document 10). On the other side of the door, i.e., on the gas chamber side, this opening was protected by a thermal glass grid (see Documents 12 and 13). The grid was fitted because the people in the gas chamber, feeling they were in danger, used to break the glass of the peep-hole. But the grid did not provide any protection and similar incidents occurred. The opening was blocked with a wooden board of solid wood. The people who were to be gassed and those in the gas chamber (chambermen) had electrical installations, trailing the cables out and damaging the ventilation equipment. The door was closed hermetically from the corridor side by means of two iron bolts (see Document 11) which were screwed tight by means of two angled bolts which screwed through the catches onto the bars, which were themselves fitted with handles). The roof of the gas chamber was supported by concrete pillars running down the

middle of its length [11] to [17]. On either side of these pillars there were four others [C1] to [C4], two on each side. [Here Tauber is mistaken. This arrangement is found only in the gas chamber of Krematorium III. In K.I, they were in a row down the east side of the room]. The sides of these pillars, which went up through the roof, were of heavy wire mesh. Inside this gold, there was another of finer mesh and inside that a third of very fine mesh. Inside this Levi mesh cage there was a removable can that was pulled out with a wire to recover the [merit] pellets from which the gas had evaporated.

[See Document 14, based on Mychal Kalfa's description of the Zyklon-B hydrocyanic acid and gas small pellets of yellowish to reddish-brown color. Tauber made a very slight mistake in saying that there was a third FIXED cage in the column.]

Besides that, in the gas chamber there were electric wires running along the two sides of the main beam supported by the central concrete pillars [to supply 16 small lamps, observation confirmed by a Bauleitung drawing]. The ventilation was installed in the walls of the gas chamber. Communication between the room and the ventilation installation proper was through small holes along the top and bottom of the side walls. The lower openings were protected by a kind of *mauzle*, the upper ones by white-washed perforated metal plates.

[See Documents 15, 16 and 17. Some of these upper ventilation hole covers from Leichenkeller 11 of Krematorium II, made of zinc sheet covered with a white layer, were submitted to toxicological analyses in December 1945. After appropriate chemical treatment, wrappings from this white layer gave Prussian blue or ferric ferrocyanide, or ferric thiocyanate, dyes indicating, specifically, but not very precisely, the presence of hydrocyanic compounds.]

The ventilation system of the gas chamber was coupled to the ventilation ducts installed in the main building. The ventilation system, which also served the disinfection room [11], was driven by electric motors in the roof space of the crematorium [12].

[Tauber was the ONLY witness to formally indicate that the dressing room and the dissecting room WERE ALSO VENTILATED. Thirty-five years later, nobody had yet noticed! But in order to know that the ventilation systems were separate, contrary to what he thought, he would either have had to be present during their installation or to have climbed on the roof and found the four separate air extraction outlets inside a single chimney.]

The gas chamber had no water supply of its own.

[A Bauleitung inventory of many indicators that three taps were in fact installed IN the gas chamber. But they were destroyed in the first gasings and it was decided not to replace them.]

The water tap was in the corridor and a rubber hose was run from it to wash the floor of the gas chamber. At the end of 1943, the gas chamber was divided in two by a brick wall to make it possible to gas smaller transports. In the dividing wall there was a door identical to that between the corridor and the original gas chamber. Small transports were gassed in the chamber furthest from the entrance from the corridor.

[One of the very few ventilable points in the deportees, it would seem more logical to gas in the gas chamber CLOSEST to the

entrance as this meant less distance to transport the corpses and the ventilation system in the far end of the gas chamber must have been inefficient because it was poorly designed.]

The dressing room and the gas chamber were covered first with a concrete slab [the ceiling] then with a layer of soil sown with grass. There were four small chimneys, the openings through which the gas was thrown in that rose above the gas chamber. These openings were closed by concrete covers with two handles.

[An inventory in the Krematorium I handover document indicates that 144 of the 145 wooden covers [page 12 of PHO file BW 30433, Mistake on Tauber's part, or were the covers changed in the light of experience?]

Over the dressing room, the ground was higher than the level of the yard and perfectly flat. The ventilation ducts led to the [air extraction] pipes and the chimneys located in the part of the building above the corridor and dressing room [13, 17]. I would point out that at first the dressing room had neither benches nor clothes hooks and there were no showers in the gas chamber. These fittings were not installed until autumn 1943 in order to camouflage the dressing room and gas chamber as a bathing and disinfection facility. The showers [24 dummy wooden shower heads] were filled with small blocks of wood sealed into the [paved] concrete roof of the gas chamber [see Documents 18 and 19]. There were no pipes connected to these showers, from which no water ever flowed.

As I have already said, there was a lift [19] in the corridor [3] or rather in goods hoist [see Document 30]. A temporary hoist was installed pending delivery of the electric lift to carry the corpses to the ground level. At this level [Document 23, on emergency from the lift, there was a door [14a] leading to the «boiler room» [14] where the cremation furnaces [10] to [15] were, and the other door [15a], on the opposite side led to a store room where the corpses were put [temporarily]. In addition, there was a vestibule [16] there, which was reached through an entrance [16a, Document 22] locating the access door to the crematorium. From this vestibule, one entered through the right hand door [16b] into the dressing room [11]. Between this room and the corpse store there was a WC [17] reached through a door [11a] from the dressing room. The left hand door [16c, coming from the vestibule] led to the «boiler room» on the firebox side of the cremation furnaces. They were in a row, equally spaced. There were five furnaces, each fired by two hearths [G1 and G2]. On the other side, where the exit from the lift was [14a], were the muffle [M1] to [M3] for cremation ovens, three per furnace. It was possible to put five human corpses in each muffle, which was closed by an iron door bearing the inscription «Tapi». Beneath each muffle, there was a space for bins to collect the ashes, also closed by an iron door made by the same firm. Behind the furnaces, on the left, on the side of the access door from the crematorium yard, was the coke store [18]. Going to the end of the yard [edge of the trough. Tauber means «at the end of the furnace room»] was a narrow corridor [19] from which a door [20a] led to a small room [20] reserved for the SS [see Document 23]. One of the windows [20b] of this room looked out onto the «boiler room» on the muffle side, and the second [20c] onto the yard behind the crematorium. This room was next to that of the head of the Kommando (Kommandoführer) [21], which had a window [21a] looking out on the back yard.



Document 7

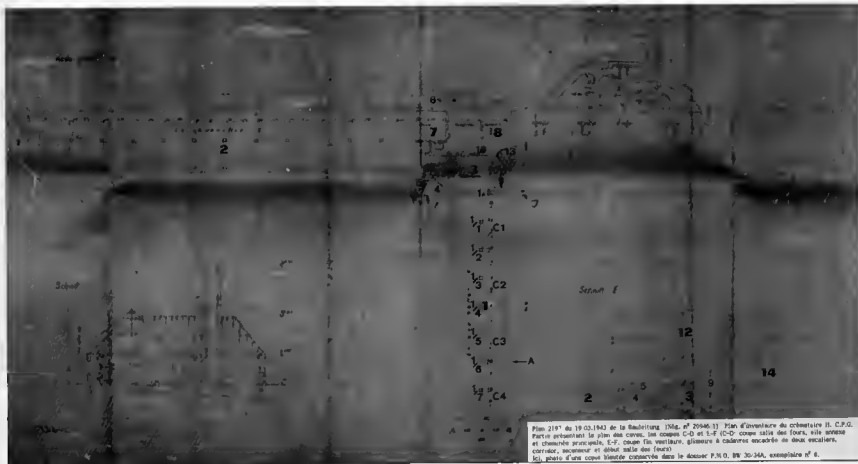
Discovery of the Ventral Commission for the investigation of Hitler's crimes in Poland (cf 51/9/8)

Not known side of Krematorium I taken in 1943 during its reconstruction. Above M, is the access door to the former shower room. This door was converted back into a window as it was originally. Above G, is the final entrance door to the crematorium, fitted with a gas tight door with a pump-hole. I do not know whether that is when it was found when the camp was liberated.



Document 8

Indian sketch by David Olney, drawn at 1947, showing himself in the company of the Corps Felix August Block



Document 9

Hand-drawn drawing 2107 of 19.2.1943 [arg. No 20946.1]

Part of the secondary drawing of Krimmstrasse II showing:

function plan

sections C-D (furnace room, waste incinerator wing and main chimney)

sections E-F (end of the underground room and the corpse clinic flanked by two stairways, corridor, corpse lift and end of the furnace room)

The photograph is of a blueprint in PMO file BW 3034A, copy No 6.

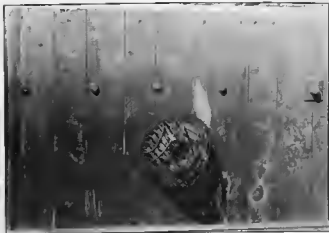


Document 11
Photograph of the exterior of a gas-tight door
[Warsaw Central Commission Archives, ref 23]

Warsaw Central Commission Archives photographs refs 11 and 23 were taken at the *Arsenalska* • *Budowlanych* soldiers' yards for new and recuperated building materials and also *recro* and *verna* of a gas-tight door which certainly belonged to a homicidal gas chamber as one of the four *Birkenau* *Krematoriums*. The proof of its criminal use is the presence of a heavy hemispherical grid PROTECTING THE PEEP-HOLE ON THE INSIDE



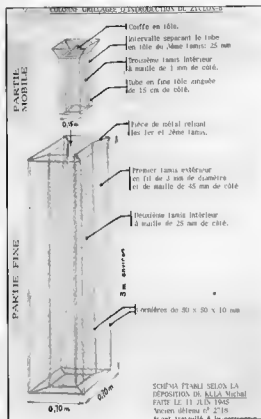
Document 12
Photograph of the interior of a gas-tight door
[Warsaw Central Commission Archives, ref 17]



Document 13
*Detail of the interior of the gas-tight door found in the *Raschke* in 1945: the hemispherical grid protecting the inspection peep-hole*
[Warsaw Central Commission Archives, ref 48]



Document 16
*Photograph (PDR microfilm No 205-042), taken in the *Arsenalska* • *Budowlanych* in 1945 showing clothes hooks and wooden benches taken from the underground rooms of *Krematorium I* and *III*. The benches in the foreground came from round one of the concrete central supporting pillars and the one behind was from one of the side walls. In the background on the right, a stack of benches from the side walls.*



Document 14

3D MATH DIAGRAM OF A YCLOM INTRODUCTION COLUMN

Based on the deposition of 11th June 1945 made by Michal KULA, former prisoner 2718 who worked in the metal working shop where these columns were made

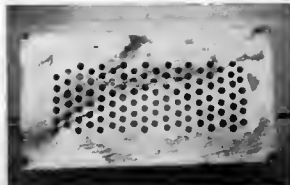
Translation of Inscriptions:

PARTIE MOBILE/MOVABLE PART

- Coiffe en tôle/Metal cap
- Intervalle séparant le tube en tôle du 3ème tamis: 25 mm
Space between the metal tube and the third lattice 25 mm
- Troisième tamis intérieur à maille de 1 mm de côté
Third, innermost, lattice of 1 mm mesh.
- Tube en fine tôle zinguée de 15 cm de côté
Thin galvanized metal tube, 15 cm square.

PARTIE FIXE/FIXED PART

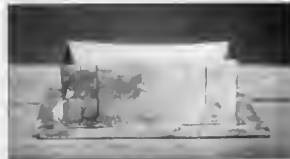
- Pièce de métal reliant les 1er et 2ème tamis
Metal strip joining the first and second lattices.
- Premier tamis extérieur en fil de 3 mm de diamètre et de maille de 45 mm de côté
First, external, lattice of 3 mm diameter wire, 45 mm mesh.
- Deuxième tamis intérieur à maille de 25 mm de côté
Second, interior, lattice of 25 mm mesh.
- 3 m environ/Approximately 3 m
- Cornières de 30 x 50 x 10 mm/Angle irons



Document 15

Perforated galvanized sheet covering one of the upper thirds in vertical-lattice holes of Leuchterfilter I of Kesselwagen Q or III, dimensions: 74 x 13 cm, Leuchterfilter I of Kr II had 50 of these metalworking shop order no. 81 of 18/243, completed on 15/3/43, and that of Kr III 95 (metalworking shop order no. 192 of 15/043) completed on 22/3/43. They were simply fixed by four nails across the rectangular openings (see in the wooden container through which fresh air arrived. kept in the PHO - Reserve Stock in block 25

(Photo by the author)



Document 16

Rear view of the same object
(Photo by the author)



Document 17

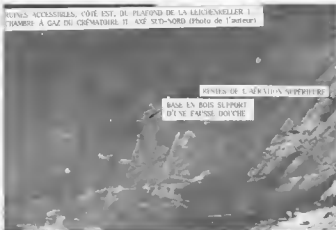
Rear view of an upper vertical-lattice hole cover, classified PHO III 5-73/2 kept in the PHO - Reserve Stock in block 25. Its closure makes nature is very evident
(Photo by the author)

Just beyond this room, there was a WC and a small washroom [22, with a shower], and then the [prisoner] doctors' room [23] with windows [23a] looking out on the women's camp [BIB]. From the corridor, a stairway [24] led up to the roof space, where there was a dormitory [25] for the men working in the Sonderkommando and, at the end, the electric motors [12] for the lift and the ventilation system.

[Four] motors, installed round the common chimney for the ventilation system, extracted the air from the undressing room (18), the gas chamber (13'), the furnace room and, together, the dissecting and «washing» rooms. Another duct [26] brought fresh air to the gas chamber. There were also one or two other motors for the lift. See Document 24]

A prisoner mechanic worked on them [maintenances]. Facing the entrance gate to the crematorium grounds, in the centre of the building, was a wing [27] in which rubbish was burnt in an incinerator [U]. It was called «Milverbrereng[isofen]» (waste incinerator). It was separate, reached by going down a stairway [28, still visible in the ruins]. It was surrounded by iron platform and was coal fired. The entrance [27a] to the waste incinerator wing faced the crematorium access gate. [The facade of] this wing had, in addition to its entrance door with a [iron] window over it, two windows, one on the right [27b] and one on the left [27c] of the entrance. In the left corner of the entrance, there was an opening [27d] through which, from a wall-off area on the outside [29], the objects to be burned were passed inside.

The incinerator hearth [or hearth?] [M] for these things was/were? to the left of the entrance and the furnace [Q] on the right. I would point out that it was in this partial furnace that the documents of the Political Section of the camp were always burned. From time to time, the SS would bring whole truckloads of papers, documents and files that had to be burned under its control. During the incineration of these papers, I noticed great swarms of records of dead people and death notices («Todesmeldungen»). We were not able to take any of these documents because we were operating under the close and direct surveillance of the SS. Behind the waste incinerator, at the end of the wing, was a chimney for all the cremation furnaces and the incinerator. At first, there were around this chimney three electric motors used for the draught («Saugkraftanlage») (suction type) forced draught installation. Because of the heat given off and the proximity of the incinerator, these motors often broke down. There was even a fire on one occasion. Because of these problems, they were later removed and the [roof] floor [unlike floor of the cremation furnaces] were connected directly to the chimney. A door [27e] allowed passage between the waste incinerator wing and the part where the chimney was. This part being slightly higher, it was reached by a few steps [28]. After the ruins were removed, some wash basins for the Sonderkommando were installed next to the chimney [30] [Dr Miklos Nyszcz speaks of «a beautiful ten min shower, made of gleaming tiles» (page 60), which was certainly supplied with water heated by the incinerator], and in the other part on the opposite side looking towards the undressing room, there was a room [31] where Oberkapo [chief] Capoj Agassi sometimes slept. Normally he slept in the Reich Germans («Reichsdeutscher») block, which was first in Sector B1b, then in B1d. In the roof space above the waste incinerator wing, the hat cut from the victims was dried, tossed [An early Indian ink sketch by David Oltz shows prisoners «working the hats». This is one of the sketches conserved by Mymam Novach] and put in sacks [of about twenty kilograms] which were subsequently taken away by truck.



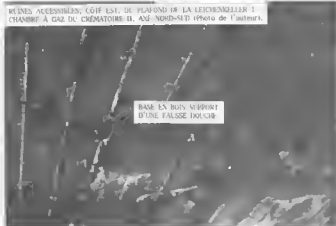
Document 18 (unpublished version and 19 - same/same version)

Two photographs of the accessible part of the ruins of the east side of the ceiling of Leichenkeller 1 of Krematorium I in the region of supporting pillar 1b. Access is at point «A» on drawing 2197. Only the wooden beams are still visible, each lying at the intersection of a line running longitudinally between the central pillars and the cross in all and a perpendicular running between two central pillars. 74 dormitory shower heads were fitted.

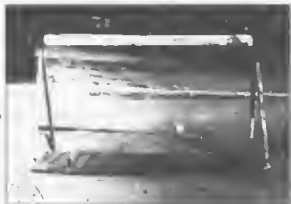
(Photos by the author)

Translation of inscriptions:

RISTES DE L'AÉRATION SUPÉRIEURE/REMAINS OF UPPER VENTILATION DUCT
BASE EN BOIS SUPPORT D'UNE FAUSSE DOUCHE/ODDEN BASE FOR DUMMY SHOWER HEAD



Document 19



Document 20

Photograph (FBI) neg No 705177 of a prewarload 1500 kg capacity goods lift used in Krematorium II [II] found at the Bahnhof in 1945. The order for its construction was the found in the «Metall-working» file. Annex 15 of Volume 15 of the files list.

«Order No 61 of 15/2/43 - POW camp Krematorium II [II] BW 93
Subject: 3 goods lift with a maximum payload of 1500 kg including the fitting of suitable winches, cable and motor and the guide rail.
Order No 2363/146/ of 26/1/43 from the Bauleitung
Order values over from the former producers: metalworking shop. Completed on 15/1/43»

It was subsequently replaced by a 1500 kg capacity Dörmig goods lift.



Document 21

Indian ink sketch by David Oltz, dating from 1947, showing three SS men occupying the left corner of a French camera at what was known as the Capa's room in Krematorium III [III] while at the same time looking an eye on the work of the Sonderkommando through the internal window [20b] looking out on the furnace room. It also shows the lift taken place in Krematorium III. The furnace doors would have been left and would have been visible through the right hand side of the window.

As I have already said, there were five furnaces in Krematorium II, each with three muffles for cremating the corpses and heated by two coke-fired hearths. The fire flues of these hearths came out above the ash [collection] boxes of the two side muffles. Thus the flames went first round the two side muffles then below the centre one, from where the combustion gases were led out below the furnace, between the two firing hearths. Thanks to this arrangement, the incineration process for the corpses in the side muffles differed from that of the centre muffle. The corpses of «muselmans» or of wasted people with no fat burned rapidly in the side muffles and slowly in the centre one. Conversely, the corpses of people gassed directly on arrival, not being wasted, burned better in the centre muffle [see Document 29]. During the incineration of such corpses, we used the coke only to light the fire of the furnace initially, for laterly corpses burned of their own accord thanks to the combustion of the body fat. On occasion when coke was in short supply, we would put some straw in the fire box [see Document 30] under the muffles, and once the fat of the corpse began to burn the ash corpses would catch light themselves. There were no iron components inside the muffle. The bars were of chromite [refractory material], for iron would have melted in the furnace, which reached 1100 to 1200°C. These chromite bars were arranged crosswise. The dimensions of the door and the opening of the muffles were smaller than the inside of the muffle itself, which was 2 metres long, 80 cm wide and about 1 metre high. Generally speaking, we burned 4 or 5 corpses at a time in one muffle, but sometimes we charged a greater number of corpses. It was possible to charge up to 8 «muselmans». Such big charges were increased without the knowledge of the head of the crematorium during an audit warnings in order to attract the attention of airmen by having a bigger fire emerging from the chimney. We imagined that in that way it might be possible to change our fate. The iron components, in particular fire bars, all lie to be found in the exit [in the «Bauhall»], were found in the firebricks. Krematorium II had five fire bars in the form of a lance, on either side like swords with handles [see Document 27].

[Hilary Tauber does not mention the pulled air blowers fitted on the furnaces and designed to accelerate the initial heating of the furnaces and the incineration of the corpses.] Dr Miklós Nyiszli mentions them operating in the summer of 1944 in Krematorium II. David Olère depicted them perfectly on a longitudinal section of Krematorium III that he drew in 1945 or 46.]

On 4th March [1943], we were ordered to fire the hearths. We worked there until 4 o'clock in the afternoon. It was then that the commissars formed members of the Political Section and senior SS officers from Belau arrived at the crematorium [KII]. There were also some civilians and engineers of the firm «Trop». I remember that among them was Hauptsturmführer [captain] Szegedy, Lagerkommandant [camp commandant] Auenweyer and Oberscharführer [senior staff sergeant] Kwakernak. After the arrival of this commission, we were ordered to take the corpses out of the stove room [15] and throw them in the muffles. In this room we found about 45 bodies of men only, very well fed and fat. I did not know when they were put there or where they came from. Later on, I learned that they had been selected from the persons gassed in Bunker II [2] situated in the forest [300 metres west of the Zentral SS area]. An SS officer of the Political Section had

gone there and ordered prisoners to pick out big and well-fed bodies that he made them load on vehicles and remove from the Bunker [2]. At that time, the Sonderkommando prisoners did not know where these corpses came from. It turned out they were used to test and demonstrate to this big commission the operation and capacity of Krematorium II, which was going to be started up. Via the lift [9] and the door [14] leading to the «boker room», we took out the bodies and placed them two or three at a time on trolleys of the type I described for Krematorium I and charged them into the different muffles. As soon as all the muffles of the five furnaces had been charged [with three corpses per muffle 3 x 5 x 45], the members of the commission began to observe the operation, watch on hand. They opened the muffle doors, looked at their watches, expressed surprise at the slowness of the cremation process. In view of the fact that the muffles were not yet hot enough, even though we had been firing them since the morning, and because they were brand new, the incineration of this charge took about 40 minutes. [Later on,] in continuous operation, we could burn two charges per hour. According to the regulations, we were supposed to charge the muffles every half hour. After Cape August was explained to us that, according to the calculations and plans for Krematorium 5, 10 7 minutes was allowed to burn one corpse in a muffle. In principle, he did not let us put more than three corpses in one muffle. Because with this quantity we were obliged to work without interruption, for as soon as the last muffle was charged, the contents of the first had been consumed [Tauber describes his work as being to look after ONE furnace, charging the three muffles, the first, second and third, or last, in turn]. In order to be able to take a pause during the work, we would charge 4 or 5 corpses in each muffle. The incineration of such a charge took longer, and after charging the last muffle, we had a few minutes' break until the first one was again available. We took advantage of this free time to wash the floor of the «boker room» [15], as a result of which the air became a little cooler.

Once the incineration of the first test charge was finished, the commission left. We loaded up the crematorium, washed it, and were taken back to block 2 in Section II. During the next ten days, we went back, under SS guard, to fire the furnaces. No convoys arrived during ten days. We did not burn any corpses, simply keeping the fires going in order to keep the furnaces hot. About mid-March 1943,

[on 14th, when out of an RSHA transport of 2000 Jews from the Cracow ghetto, 484 were selected for work in the camp and the others were gassed]

one evening after work, Hauptsturmführer [Master-Sergeant] Hirsch, in charge of the Krematorium at that time, came and ordered us to stay in the crematorium because there was some work for us. At nightfall, trucks arrived carrying people of both sexes and all ages. Among them there were old men, women, and many children. The trucks ran back and forth for an hour between the station

[Auschwitz station, where there was a Jewish platform, used before the construction of a rail siding running to between Krematorium II and III]

and the camp, bringing more and more people. As soon as the trucks began to arrive, we, the Sonderkommando, were shut up at a room

located at the back [23] where, as I said in my description of the crematorium, the doctors who earned out the autopsies were to be housed. From this room, we could hear the people emerging from the trucks weeping and shouting. They were headed towards a big [B] erected perpendicular to the crematorium building, [and directed] towards the entrance gate [P] of Krematorium II [see Document 28, sketch of drawing 2216]. The people entered through the door facing the gate [P] and went down [to the basement of Krematorium II] to enter Lescherkeller 1 (the gas chamber [11]) by the stairway [8] to the right of the waste incinerator wing. At that time, this hub served as an undressing room. It was used for this purpose only for a week or so, when it was dismantled. After this hub was removed, the people were headed towards the basement area of the crematorium via a stairway [10] towards the basement area of the crematorium [21, already described. After we had waited for two hours [see Document 29, a David Olère's sketch of a scene that the temporarily imprisoned Sonderkommando could not see] in the pathologists' room, we were let out and ordered to go to the gas chamber. We found beds of naked bodies, doubled up. They were pinkish, and in places red. Some were covered with greenish marks and scratches from their mouths. Others were bleeding from the number had their eyes open and were hanging on to one another. The bodies were most crushed together under the door. By contrast, there were less around the waste mesh columns. The location of the bodies indicated that the people had tried to get away from the columns and get to the door. It was very hot in the gas chamber and so suffocating as to be unbearable. Later on, we became convinced that many people died of suffocation due to lack of air, just before the gassing. They fell to the floor and were trampled on by the others. They were not sitting, like the majority, but stretched out on the floor, under the others. It was obvious that they had succeeded first and that they had been trampled on. Once the people were in the gas chamber, the door was closed and the air was pumped out. The gas chamber ventilation could work only with water, thanks to a system that could both extract and blow

[Henry Tauber is mistaken here, and contradicts himself]. It was my job, in extracting the air from the gas chamber? The only technical justification would be to promote the diffusion of the hydrocyanic gas by creating a partial vacuum. It suffices to close off the fresh air inlet and switch on the extractor fans. Even if it were possible to create a slight vacuum, this would immediately be broken as soon as the medical orderlies responsible for gassing opened the covers of the waste mesh columns to pour in the Zyklon B. This method of operation would be absurd, especially in a situation for both extracting AND blowing. A blowers ventilation system, bringing fresh air in, cannot be used for extracting air. The truth is that Tauber misunderstood the functioning of the ventilation system (understandably enough because he could not demolish the walls to check the exact arrangement of the ventilation ducts) of the gas chamber, even though he had correctly identified (without realizing their role) the two distinct parts: a NATURAL air intake comprising a simple duct running from the roof ridge to the gas chamber, which was the upper ventilation system, and an air extraction system driven by an electric motor, with fans drawing out the foul air, the lower ventilation system. When the air extractor fans were switched on, fresh air naturally flowed in to replace the polluted air extracted. The levels of the air inlets (above) and extraction holes (below) prove that the system was designed for air under

ground storage and not for a gas chamber, where the extraction of the WARM air must be as should be in the UPPER part. On the possible blocking of the lower air extraction holes by carpets, see my solution in Part II Chapter 6.]

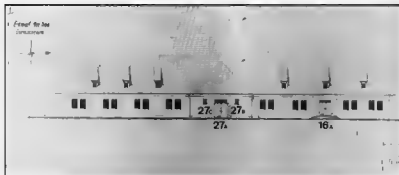
Only the undressing room had a blowers-assisted air intake system

[The difference in design between the two installations fulfilling the same function is explained by the last fact: that, that of Lescherkeller 1, was designed and installed by the Bauleitung, while the other, that of Lescherkeller 2, was designed and installed by the civilian firm of Tögl & Söhne of Erfurt, a firm producing metal tubes of different sections and the factory interested in placing a maximum of its products, as can be clearly seen in the ventilation systems of the Krematorium II and III undressing rooms.]

Despite the fact that the ventilation remained on for some time after the opening of the gas chamber, we wore gas masks to work there. Our job was to remove the bodies, but we did not do this in the first convoy in mid-March because we had to go back to work in the furnace room. To do the job, seventy prisoners were brought from block II, also members of the Sonderkommando and working at the incineration pits of the Bunkers [1] and 2. This group took the corpses from the gas chamber [see Documents 20 and 21a] into the corridor [3] near the lift. There, a barber cut off the women's hair, then the bodies were taken on the lift to the «boker room» below. On this floor they were put in the store room or taken directly to the «boker room», where they were heaped in front of the furnaces. Then, two dentists, under the surveillance of the SS, pulled out metal fillings and false teeth.

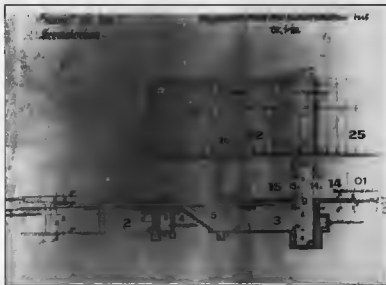
[Das id Olère placed the «barbers» and «dentists» directly in the gas chamber, precisely indicated by a white mesh curtain [Document 11]. But he worked in Krematorium III. There was perhaps a different operating sequence in each Krematorium.]

They also removed the rings and earrings. The teeth were thrown into a box marked «Zahnrattentaste» [dentist centre]. As for the jewels, they were put into another box with no label other than a number. The dentists, recruited from among the prisoners, looked into all the mouths except those of the children. When the jaws were no longer chattering, they pulled them apart with the pincers used to extract the teeth. The SS carefully checked the worked of the dentists. Always before present in the furnace and already operated on by the dentists, in order to check the mouths. They occasionally found a forgotten gold tooth. Such carelessness was considered to be sabotage, and the culprit was burned alive in the furnace. I witnessed such a thing myself. A dentist, a French Jew, was burned in this way in Krematorium V. He fought and cried, but there were several SS and they threw themselves on him, overpowered him and put him in the furnace alive. This punishment was often inflicted on members of the Sonderkommando, but it was not the only one. There were many others, such as immediate shooting, being thrown into water, physical torture, beating, being rolled unaided on gravel, and other punishments. Such things were done in the presence of all the members of the Sonderkommando in order to intimidate them. I remember another case that took place in August 1944 in Krematorium V. When the shifts were changing over, a man found a gold watch and wedding ring on one of the labourers, a man



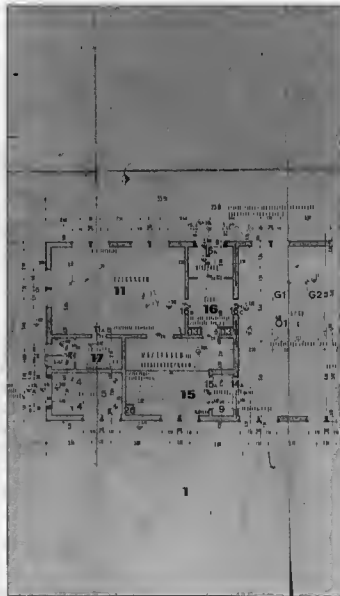
Document 23
 Blueprint drawing 937 of 15/10/42
 [PMD file BW 3005 and seq. no. 20016/7]

The EAST elevation of the projected new crematorium for the main camp. After the decision was taken to model the building at Buchenwald rather than the main camp, the blueprint used this drawing as the NORTH elevation of the future Krematorium II.



Document 24
 Blueprint drawing 1173 of 15/10/42
 [PMD file BW 3005 and seq. no. 20016/9]

Longitudinal section of the innermost part of the projected crematoriums that was to become Buchenwald Crematorium II.



Grundriß vom Erdegeschloß.

M. 1:100

Document 21

Ground floor plan of Krematorium II (PMO neg. No. 20957)

Revised drawing 935 of 14th January 1942

drawn by SS Sergeant Ullrich on 10/1/42

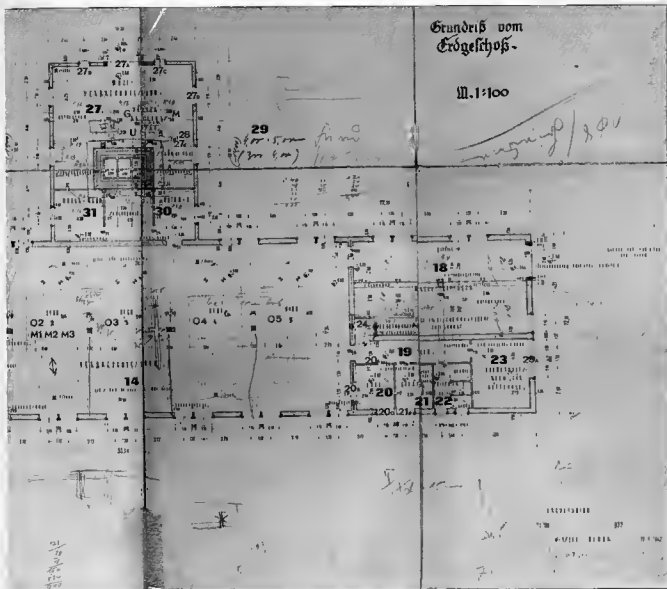
checked by SS Second Lieutenant Degner

and approved by SS Captain Raschall on 26/1/42

Entwurf des Krematoriums (projected crematorium)

This drawing is part of drawing 935 III, comprising 935 (ground floor) and 934 (sections)

[As that date it was planned to build a new 'normal' crematorium in the main camp behind Krematorium I. It was not until the end of August 1942 that, now classified as work site BW 30, Krematorium II, which began as a 'Bickerton' where a mirror image was also to be built BW 30a, 32 III]



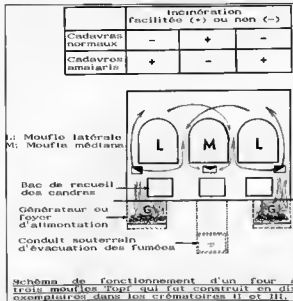
Document 25
Schematic diagram of the operation of a three-muffle furnace, a total of two of which were installed in Krematorium II and III

Translation of inscriptions
(from top to bottom and left to right):

- Incinération facilitée (+) ou non (-)
Incineration facilitated (+) or otherwise (-)
- Cadavres normaux/Normal corpses
- Cadavres amagnés/Washed corpses

L: Side muffle
M: Centre muffle

- Bac de recueil des cendres/Ash collection bin
- Générateur ou foyer d'alimentation/Firebox or coke-burning hearth
- Conduit souterrain d'évacuation des fumées/Underfloor smoke flue



Document 26
Bauleitung drawing 2216 (PMO neg. no. 25561)
Kriegsgefangenlager Lagerplan/Plan of the prisoner of war camp
Scale 1:2000
Drawn by prisoner 516
and checked by SS Second Lieutenant Dupon and Jurek on 26/IV/43

This Bauleitung version confirms the erection in mid-March 1943 of a hut (H) serving search-march in the north yard of Krematorium II.
→ H-10 was used according to Henryk Tauber, as an undressing room, apparently because the access stair-way to the underground undressing room (Leichenkeller 2) was not yet completed



Photo P.N.O. neg. n° 462 (act) du record des centres provenant de fours d'incinération des crématoires de Buchenwald. Précisons leur appartenance entre les crématoires II III ou IV/V, ces deux types au moins d'H). Strates semblables dans les deux types de four d'incinération. Reconnus au Bunde en 1945

Document 26
(PMO neg. no. 191)
Ash collection bins from the cremation furnaces of the Buchenwald Krematorium found in the Bunde in 1945. It is impossible to say whether they come from Krematorium II/III or IV/V and not very important if the bins were similar in the two types of furnace



Photo P.N.O. neg. n° 460. Leds métalliques provenant, selon H. Tauber, des quatre abrications au foyer d'alimentation de four à trois moufles du créatorium IV. Le seul de ce type à être 216 abricaté après son accident lors de la révolte du Sonderkommando en octobre 1944. Reconnus au Bunde en 1945

Document 27:
(PMO neg. no. 1902)

Document 29

Indian ink sketch by David Olère, dated 1950, showing women and children put before their extermination in the gas chamber of Krasnostein III. Living aside the massive images, this sketch is TDO LATE, to be historically acceptable. It has become allegorical and contains obvious errors that can be identified by comparison with the extraction of the gassed, dating from 1944. The gas chamber door is shown opening inward, whereas in fact it opened outward. Even the position of the door is incorrect. The lamps are incorrectly placed: they were actually located on either side of the central supporting beam, which is not even shown. No pillars are visible, only structural of lathwork. The faces of the SS men, with their shad of necks, are caricatured as compared with the young, pale-faced SS men with heavy hair shown in the 1946 drawing and contrast with the single lines of the women, the majority of whom are of «Aryan» appearance, according to the criteria of the Third Reich. I present this scene to show how the visual memories of a survivor deteriorate with time. Only Olère's early pictures, from 1943 to 1947, are historically valid, leaving the study of photographs, even if not their isolate pictures. Olère's paintings of Birkenau gassed and much later reflect this deterioration of the visual memory.



Document 31

Sketch by David Olère, dated from 1946, showing a «barbecue» in the background and «barbaric» in the foreground, at work on bodies INSMI the Krasnostein III gas chamber as shown by a war mesh Zyckel II introduction volume IC (in the background). It should be noted that the SS probably considered that the extraction of gold teeth should be done immediately on opening the gas chamber to enter in order to «organize images» that could recur over the short distance from the basement to the ground floor.



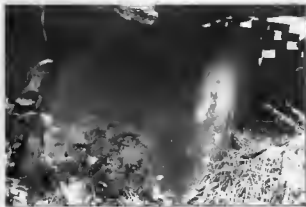
Document 31



Document 30

Document 30 (check/and Me (photo)

Sketch by David Olère, dated from 1946, showing bodies being removed from the Krasnostein III gas chamber. As confirmed by shown photographs, the door is correctly hung and located. The lightness of furniture shown on the left, beyond the two arrows, is purely symbolic (door is an no furniture in the basement) and equally a scene which would have been irreproachable without the addition of visible objects. Beneath the door and the prisoner in the foreground there was a wall of plating blocking off the corpse chute (still visible in the ruins of Krasnostein III, the photo by the author, below the statue shows its upper extremity), an used because it was built to serve not emergency, not what had become an no dressing room and gas chamber. The total absence of this chute even in David Olère's early memories confirms that it was never used.



Document 30a

from Wulfrum called Lejch. This Jew, aged about twenty, was dark and had a number of one hundred thousand and something. All the Sonderkommando working in the crematorium [Kl V] were assembled, and below their eyes he was hung, with his hands tied behind his back, from an iron bar above the firing hearth. He remained in this position for about one hour, then after wringing his hands and feet, they threw him in a cold crematorium furnace. Gasoline was poured into the lower ash bin [into the firebox at the back of the furnace] and lit. The flames reached the muffle where this Lejch was imprisoned. A few minutes later, they opened the door and the condemned man emerged and ran off, covered in burns. He was ordered to run round the yard shouting that he was a thief. Finally, he had to climb the barbed wire, which was not electrified during the day, and when he was at the top, the head of the crematoriums, Adolf, first name Otto [Hauptsturmführer/Master sergeant], killed him with a shot. Another time, the SS chased a prisoner who was not working fast enough into a pit next the crematorium [V] that was full of boiling human fat. At that time [summer 1944], the corpses were incinerated in open air pits, from which the fat flowed in to separate reservoir, dug in the ground. This fat was poured over the ramparts to accelerate their combustion. This poor devil was pulled out of the fat still alive and then shot. To satisfy the formalities, his body was carried to the block where the death certificates (Totenscheine) were issued. The next day, the corpse was brought back to the crematorium [Kl V], where it was incinerated at a pit [?].

During the cremation of this first transport in mid-March 1943, we worked without interruption for 48 hours, but did not succeed in burning all the bodies, because in the meantime a Greek convoy that had just arrived was also gassed.

On 20th March, an RSHA convoy of 2800 Jews from Salonika (Greece) arrived. At the selection, 1000 were picked out to work in the camp and the others were killed in the gas chambers. However, the interval of 48 hours between the two convoys indicated by Henryk Tauber is surely a mistake. Admittedly, there was also on 16th March, a convoy of Jews from the Cracow ghetto, some of whom were gassed, but the number of arrivals is not known, but as we know that about forty were registered in the camp, the total cannot have been more than about 200. Taking account of these impressions, it would appear that a total of 4 to 6 days to incinerate about 1500 corpses in the five three-muffle furnaces of Krematorium II, which is very much at odds with the throughput figures previously put forward by Henryk Tauber and even by the SS OFFICIALLY (i.e. increased by one third estimating it at 1440 per 24 hours in a letter of 28th June 1943 (PMO file BW 5043, page 2). It is reasonable to consider that the initial throughput of Krematorium II reached a ceiling at 700 in 750 incinerations a day. Then, with experience, this was raised in about 1000. Any higher figure is unrealistic, and in certain cases a downright lie!

We were overworked and completely exhausted. We were then taken back to the block and the work continued, thanks to a relief Sonderkommando that also worked at the two Bunkers and comprised about 400 prisoners. I worked in Krematorium II until about mid-April. During my stay, convoys arrived from Greece, France and Holland. In addition, we also burned the corpses of people designated for gassing at selections

within the camp. I cannot say how many people were gassed during this period. We worked in two shifts, a day shift and a night shift. On average we incinerated 2500 corpses a day.

[This figure is unrealistic and is connected with the propaganda of the immediate post-war period, taking into account the previous declarations of Timmer himself. It would imply that between 14th March and 15th April 1943, 70,000 in 75,000 victims could have been reduced to ashes in Krematorium II. According to Danuta Czech's calendar of events at the camp, which despite its imperfections is an essential research tool, about 20,000 people were gassed during this period. Here we find almost the famous multiplication factor of four, of which Dr Mikolaj Syszka made such abundant and fashionable use in his book that his credibility was long contested. Henryk Tauber is far from being the only witness to say in substance 'I don't know the number of dead' or 'I think it was so many' and then coolly say one or two sentences later, that after due consideration, we do arrive at the (standard) figure of 4 million victims in all. This type of imposed falsehood has to be excused, I would stress, because of the political climate of the period 1945-50.]

At this time I was never able to see how the people were herded into the undressing room, then from there into the gas chamber, for when the convoys arrived we were locked up in the canteen. Only the two members of the Sonderkommando who were required to keep the fires going were allowed to remain in the 'boiler room'. I came to be deified in this job myself. Through the window of the 'boiler room', I observed how the «Cyclon-B» [Zyklon-B] was poured into the gas chamber. Each transport was followed by a vehicle with Red Cross markings which entered the yard of the crematorium, carrying the camp doctor, Mengele, accompanied by Kottlitz [?], [?], Scheinert. They took the cans of «Cyclon-B» from the car and put them beside the small chimneys used to introduce the «Cyclon-B» into the gas chamber. There, Scheinert opened them with a special cold chisel [with a ring of teeth at its head] and a hammer, then poured the contents into the gas chamber. Then he closed the orifice with a concrete [or wooden] cover. As there were four similar chimneys, Scheinert poured into each the contents of one of the smallest cans of «Cyclon-B» which had yellow labels pasted right round them [see Documents 32, 33 and 34]. Before opening the cans, Scheinert put on a gasmask [see Document 35] which he wore while opening the cans and pouring at the project. There were also other SS who performed this operation, but I have forgotten their names. They were specially designated for it and belonged to the «Gesundheitswesen» [health service]. A camp doctor [SS] was present at each gassing. If I have mentioned Mengele, that is because I met him very often during my work. In addition to him, there were other doctors present during the gasings, like König, Thilo and a young, tall, slight doctor whose name I do not recall. During the selections, this last one sent everybody to be gassed. I remember that on one occasion, Mengele told Scheinert to hurry up and «feed» the victims in the gas chamber. His actual words were: «Scheinert, gib ihnen das Gasgenuss, sie [?] sollen doch nach Katowitz fahren». That meant that Scheinert was to get a move on with throwing in the «Cyclon-B». I also noticed during my work that the SS who escorted the convoys and came into the crematorium yards were accompanied by dogs and held truncheons in their hands.



Document 32



Document 33

Two photographs of the same can of Zyklon-B kept in the PMO. Reserve marks at block 25, with a postcard of 1940 p.c. corrected to 1933 of trains cars and delivered by Teché, Vahner, mass distribute for the Last Reich. Part of these cans, at 6 kilograms of 100's, were used to kill 1000 to 1200 people in the Leichenkeller (light chambers of Krematoriums II and III). (Photos by the author)



Document 34

Photograph of two Zyklon-B cans (labels kept in the PMO) in reserve since 1940 at block 25. Above 1200 gaseous can supplied by the distribution for the East Reich Teché & Vahner. Before 1940 gaseous arrived to 1500 gaseous supplied by the manufacturers Degussa.

(Photos by the author)

The trolley for transporting the corpses was little used in Krematorium II. It was replaced by a metal stretcher (in German «Leichenbrett», corpse board) that was pushed to the back of the muffle with the aid of iron rollers located below the bottom edge of the muffle door. This new device was invented, it appears, by Oberarzt August. It was later used in all the crematoriums. On the furnaces of Krematorium II and III, there was a single pair of rollers for three muffles which could be moved along an iron bar fixed in front of the muffle doors. In Krematorium IV and V, each muffle had two rollers of its own permanently installed before the door (see Document 36 with a «Leichenbrett»). Each crematorium (furnace) had two rollers for charging the corpses. This «stretcher» was placed before the muffle. Two prisoners loaded it with corpses. The prisoner was to put the first corpse with the feet towards the muffle, back down and face up. Then, a second corpse was placed on top, again face up, but head towards the muffle. This method was used so that the legs of the upper corpse blocked that below and did not get in the way when the corpses were introduced into the furnace. Two prisoners loaded the stretchers. One end of the stretcher was put in front of the muffle, below the bar, alongside which stood two prisoners. While the corpses were being loaded on the stretchers, one of these opened the door of the muffle and the other pushed the rollers. Then, they lifted the stretcher and put it on the rollers, while a fifth prisoner, positioned at the handles at the other end of the stretcher, lifted it at the same time as them and pushed it into the muffle. As soon as the corpses were inside, a sixth prisoner held them there with a fire iron [Document 37] while the fifth withdrew the stretcher. The sixth man also had to hold the stretcher as it came out of the furnace by pulling over it a vat in which soap had been dissolved so that the next load of corpses would slide easily on the metal of the stretcher without sticking to it (see David Olmer's sketch of the Krematorium III furnace room, Document 38, showing in it one of three prisoners [the third, fourth and fifth in Tushet's description] charging corpses into the furnace; my means of a «Leichenbrett»). The same procedure was used for the following charge destined to be incinerated in the same muffle. We had to work fast, for the corpses put in first soon started to burn, and their arms and legs rose up. If we were slow, it was difficult to charge the second pair of corpses. During the introduction of these other two corpses, I was able to observe the cremation process. It appeared that the trunk of the body rose and the arms stretched towards the sky before contracting. The same thing happened with the legs. The bodies became covered in blisters. Gassed bodies that had remained in the store room for two days were swollen, and in the first their duphimg burst and their intestines poured out. I was also able to observe how cremation proceeded while I was moving the corpses in the furnace with a fire iron to accelerate the combustion. After each beginning, the SS head of the Kommando (SS-Kommandoführer) checked to make sure that the furnaces were properly filled. We had to open each muffle for him and at that moment we could see what was happening inside. We burned the bodies of children with those of adults. First we put in two adults, then as many children as the muffle could contain. It was sometimes as many as five or six. We used this procedure so that the bodies of children would not be placed directly on the grid bars, which were relatively far apart. In this way we prevented the children from falling through into the ash bin. Women's bodies burned much better and more quickly than those of men. For this reason, when a charge was burning badly, we would introduce a woman's body to accelerate the combustion.

At the beginning of the cremation process, the furnaces were heated only by their fireboxes and the charges burned slowly. Later on, as cremations succeeded one another, the furnaces burned thanks to the embers produced by the combustion of the corpses. So, during the incineration of fat bodies, the fires were generally extinguished. When this type of body was charged into a hot furnace, fat immediately began to flow into the ash bin, where it caught fire and started the combustion of the body. When «muslimans» were being cremated, it was necessary to constantly refuel the fireboxes. The shift boss (Verantwortlicher) wrote in a notebook the number of corpses incinerated per charge and the head of the Kommando (Kommandoführer), an SS man, checked these entries. After an entire transport had been cremated, he took away the notebook. Each time the Sonderkommando was relieved, various SS guards and heads of Kommando were present. Among these last I remember Georges, Kravis, Kirschhals, Schultz, Köln and Keller. Scheinert, whom I have already mentioned, was Kommandoführer for a while in Krematorium IV.

[In the Birkenau Krematorium there was an SS hierarchy most probably composed of a few SS guarding the building and grounds, no more than three SS Kommandoführer, each in charge of the work of one Sonderkommando shift for a given period, and a Krematorium head, whose authority, depending on the evolution of the «tasks» to be accomplished, covered one, two or four Krematoriums. The Sonderkommando members had their own hierarchy, modelled on that of the SS. The Sonderkommando seems to have been split into shifts of 30 to 50 men, each with one or more shift bosses/Verantwortlicher assisting a Capo. At their head was a chief Capo/Ober capo appointed to one or two Krematoriums.]

All the Kommandoführer ill-treated the Sonderkommando prisoners working in the Krematoriums. Sometimes their cruelty was such that on one occasion Voss, one of the heads of crematorium who was later transferred to another post, [openly] criticized Kommandoführer Georges who was bounding us for the simple reason that no convoys were arriving and there was a lack of work, saying to him: «Wenn du last nicht was zu mir bringst, dann bist du wild. Ich habe das schon genug.» [meaning roughly «Wherever you have nothing to wipe out, you go mad. I've had enough of it.»] Apart from this Voss, the heads of this crematorium during its activity were: Unterscharführer [sergeant] Steinberg, Hauptcharführer [master sergeant] Hirsch and [Oskar] Moll, Scharführer [staff sergeant] Puch (actually Busch) and Obercharführer [senior staff sergeant, Erich] Marvold who came from Lublin [Mazowieck] after the liquidation of his crematorium.

Hauptcharführer Moll was the most degenerate of the lot. Before my arrival at the camp, he was in charge of the work at the Birkenau, where (just far away) they incinerated the gassed victims in pits. Then he was transferred for a while to another sector. In view of the preparation necessary for the «reception» of convoys from Hungary in 1944, he was put in charge of all the Krematoriums. It is he who organized the large-scale extermination of the people arriving in



Document 38
A Photograph by Pierre BASSON

Ergebnis: Wismuthschmelze gussfertig type GM (in Guss), size 2 (ref TM 8 20-43). «L'armée allemande» of 14 September 1941 and «Handbook on German Military Insects» of 15th March 1943, without marks published by the United States War Department, manufactured in December 1940 and lined with a 1.5-litre cartridge. For use with pyrotechnic (used in December 1943). The main structural elements used for fixing by electrolysis are: chemical impregnated with the same electrolyte (see note 1), elastic polymer and sodium ions.

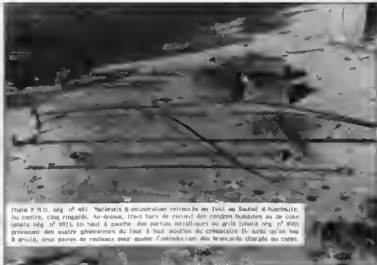


Photo 2 M.O. nég. n° 961. Nécropole II en construction, vue prise du Sud-Est d'Auschwitz. Au centre, cinq rangées. À droite, l'entrée des chambres à gaz. À gauche, les fours à incinérer. Nég. n° 962. En haut à gauche, deux parties métalliques au grill (photo nég. n° 960) provenant des quatre fours à incinérer du lot 1 et haut moules du crématoire IV, au-dessus duquel se trouvent les deux paires de rouleaux pour guider l'introduction des brancards chargés de corps.

Document 34
(PMO neg no 258)

Ruins of the 8-muffle furnace of Krematorium V, northwest corner, photographed in 1945-46, with a Leichenkammer (metal corpse-charging stretchers) resting on its rollers. At ground level, two lower openings where the [human] ash bins were placed. In the background, the debris of the building, carefully hoisted up.

these convoys. Just before the arrival of the Hungarian transports, he ordered pits to be dug alongside Krematorium V [Document 36] and restarted the activity of Bunker 2, which had been lying idle, and its pits. In the yard of the Krematorium, there were notices on posts, with inscriptions telling the new arrivals from the transports that they were to go to the camp where work was waiting for them, but that first they had to take a bath and undergo disinfection. For that, it was necessary for them to undress and put all their valuables in baskets specially placed for this purpose in the yard. Moll repeated the same thing in his speeches to the new arrivals. There were so many convoys that sometimes it happened that the gas chambers were incapable of consuming all the new arrivals. The excess people were generally shot, one at a time. On several occasions, Moll threw people into the flaming pits alive. He also practised shooting people from a distance [see David Olitz's sketch, Document 46, associating these two practices]. He ill-treated and beat the Sonderkommando prisoners, treating them like animals. Those who were in his personal service told me that he used a piece of wire to fish out gold objects from the box containing the

jewels taken from new arrivals, and took them off in a briefcase. Among the objects left by the people who came to be gassed, he took furs and different types of food, in particular fat. When he took food, he said smugly to the SS around him that one had to take advantage before the lean years came. Under his direction, the Sonderkommando was strengthened and increased to about 1000 prisoners. When I arrived in the Sonderkommando, it comprised only about 400 men, a number that was maintained until January or February 1944. It was at this time that a convoy of about 300 of its members was sent to Lublin [Madame]. Before I arrived in the Sonderkommando, about 50 prisoners a week were regularly added to it. Despite these constant additions, many died and there were no more than 400 prisoners as it when I started to work there. After the convoy departed for Lublin, there were one hundred of us left. They then sent 20 Russians and a German, called Karol, as Cipo. The Sonderkommando also received several dozen prisoners, among others gold founders [Goldgießerei] and the «workers» of Auschwitz Krematorium I, so that in April 1944, the Sonderkommando comprised about 160 prisoners. At the end of the

Document 37
(PMO neg no 891)

Krematorium equipment found in the Auschwitz-Biala in 1945

Centre: Five fire holes
Above: Three bins for receiving human or coke ashes (neg no 892)
Upper left: Metal parts or fire bars (neg no. 890) from the four fire-bones of the 8-muffle furnace of Krematorium IV
Bottom right: Two pairs of rollers for supporting the metal stretchers used to charge the corpses



Document 36

Sketch by David Olitz, dating from 1945, showing the furnace room of Krematorium III, with three prisoners chasing corpses loaded on a stretcher, using a mallets slightly different from that described by Henryk Tauber. The pair of movable rollers visible on the end fixture is unused and replaced by an iron bar or point of wood to guide and take the weight of the stretcher. Note the faithful representation of the fire (rays) used.



Photo 1. M.H. leg. n° 201 prise à l'insolentement par un membre du Sonderkommando en août 1944. L'auteur photographé est lui David Schneider, vivant actuellement à Paris. L'armement déposé ainsi dans les publications officielles polonaises de 1945 à 1949, ainsi que approximative où son témoignage fut cité par le Musée d'Auschwitz. L'étude sur place prouve à cet effet photo lui prise de la chambre à gaz n° 14 du crématorium V (spécie construite à la 14 du IV sur le plan 2016) selon un axe sud-est nord-ouest en direction d'une des cinq petites traces d'incinération crymées dans le coin nord du crématorium V entre ses chambres à gaz et la clôture 35 du KGL, visible à l'arrière-plan.

Document 39:
[PMO neg. no 280]

Photo taken clandestinely by a member of the Sonderkommando in August 1944. The photographer was long thought to be David Schneider, now living in Paris, and he was officially designated as such in Polish publications from 1945 to 1948, about which time the record was put straight by the Auschwitz Museum. Study of the site proves that this photograph was taken from the north gas chamber's (Krematorium V) (a room symmetrical with room 14 of Krematorium IV on drawing 2016) along a southeast-northwest line in the direction of one of the five small cremation pits dug in the north yard of Krematorium V between the gas chambers and fence 35 of the POW camp, visible in the background.

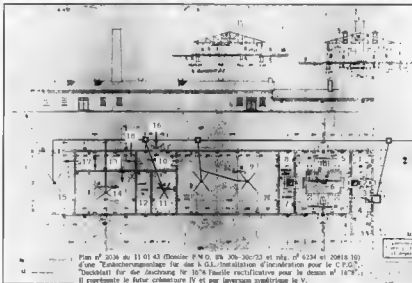


Document 40:

Sketch by David Müller, dating from 1945, showing Hangebucher Moll extracting two of his favourite prisoners, pistol shooting and throwing people alive (or half alive) into the flames. Fritz Müller describes the scene perfectly in "Gedenkbuch der Lager" (Special treatment) [Vorlag. Sonderkommando Ghetto. Mollach 1979].

• [Moll] would then rapidly go through the undressing room, like a health inspector, looking for a few young naked women whom he pushed into the back yard of the crematorium [V] as an incinerator pit. When the poor victims saw that spectacle they were so horror-stricken that they no longer knew what was happening to them. Last, glad in the spot, they reluctantly turned their eyes from the fearful sight. Moll, who was carefully watching their reactions, seemed to take deep pleasure in their anguish and terror, then he coldly shot them from behind, making them fall into that awful bubbling pit.

Despite the overly academic pose of the figures, this drawing gives a faithful picture of Krematorium V as a well-lit site, open from the absence of the only ones on its left and the fact that the chimneys WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SMOKING! In the furnace was not a service and the cremation pits had been dug to compensate for this. The scene of times on the right of the Krematorium is still the only today.



Document 41:
Redrawing drawing 2016 of 11/1/43

IPMO file BW 308-308/23 and neg. nos 4234 and 2016/10/10

Einzelhermeneutik für das K.G.L./Cremation installation for the POW camp
Deckblatt für die Zeichnung Nr. 1076/Correction sheet for drawing 1076

The drawing shows the future Krematorium (V), of which Krematorium V was a minor stage.

month, it was increased to 1000 because of the Hungarian transports. Moll and his men plunged us into despair and distress through their behavior and the way they treated us during the whole period of the mass cremations of the Hungarian transports. As soon as contact was established between the unit and the outside world, we decided to organize an insurrection that would enable us to find a way to freedom in due time. The uprising was fixed for June 1944, but I no longer remember the exact date. However, it never took place even though everything was ready, to the point that we had revealed the secret in some people who had previously suspected nothing. This affair caused us a great deal of trouble, and when it was discovered there were many victims. The first to be shot, shortly after the date planned for the beginning of the insurrection, was our Capo, Kaminski. Then, in order to make it impossible for us to have any contact with the outside world, we were transferred to Krematorium IV. Two hundred prisoners from the Sonderkommando installed there were selected and sent to be gassed. They were gassed in the delousing chamber of Auschwitz "Kanada" [1] and were incinerated in Krematorium II by the SS themselves.

[Henryk Taubert is here reporting a dubious episode that he did not personally witness. The fact is that it is most unlikely that 200 members of the Sonderkommando would allow themselves to be sent in a gas chamber even though it appeared "normal" because it was used for disinfection purposes. Since it was fitted, like the homicidal gas chambers, with the same type of gas-tight door visible at the entrance, it is impossible that 200 men who knew all about the business, who had been opening and closing such doors for months, would have entered such a room without giving up revolt. This execution by gassing still remains to be proved.]

As our situation was becoming more and more painful, we decided to escape from the camp, even though we were closely guarded and rigorously controlled. Once preparations were complete, the revolt was in September 1944 [Incorrect date, it actually began at noon on Saturday 7th October 1944, with the burning of Krematorium IV]. It was headed in Krematorium II by the SS in Krematorium IV, we killed 25 to 30 SS [incorrect figure]. Only three SS were killed; the rest we captured. Before fleeing, we at Krematorium IV on fire and blew it up [the explosion is not certain]. The alarm was given in the camp, and the SS surrounded all the Krematores, capturing virtually all the escaping prisoners. When the insurrection was over, all the 1000 men of the Sonderkommando, only about 190 remained alive [all the 212 surviving on 9th October, 14 were arrested and imprisoned on 10th and 138 were temporarily saved]. We were all housed first in a Krematorium II, then some were transferred to block 11 of Sector B III [remains of the punishment commando, a prison in the men's camp]. Then, a group of 100 prisoners left there [then intended destruction] was KL Gross-Rosen. It is not known what became of them and a further group of 30 was detained to the incineration of corpses at Krematorium V. Sixty remained in block 11 and worked in the demolition commando (Abbruchkommando) demolishing Krematorium II and III, which were to be transported to Gross-Rosen.

[Project initiated by the "Unknown Author" in a note of 26th November 1944. See the text in Part II, Chapter 6 on the ventilation systems of Krematorium II and III. This is a story that probably grew up among the members of the Abbruchkom-

mando themselves, and is a pure myth concerning the installation of gas chambers at KL Gross-Rosen and Mauthausen using the air extraction equipment of the undressing rooms.]

Later on, the 30 "workers" of Krematorium V came back to block 11, which housed about 90 Sonderkommando members when the camp was liquidated. On 18th January 1945, we were assembled, together with the prisoners from the other Auschwitz blocks and herded in the direction of the Reich. After about 20 kilometers, I escaped, and so I was able to save my life.

I have already mentioned that there were four pathologists belonging to the Sonderkommando. At first, they lived with us in the block, but later they installed themselves in the room [23] next to the coker stove [18] of Krematorium II. These doctors carried out autopsies in a room [11] on the ground floor of Krematorium II and III, on top of stone tables [that of Krematorium III] was installed on 17th and 19th April 1943 and painted on 20th, 21st and 23rd by the firm Josef Kluge of Glinowitz (file BW 30/24, pages 1 to 51). There they directed the corpses of prisoners who had died in the hospital, sometimes those of certain persons shot in the corridor [3] between the undressing room [2] and the gas chamber [1]. More often that not, Moll shot them himself. They shot prisoners coming from the bunkers [cell] of block 11 [in the main camp] or from outside the camp. As soon as prisoners were brought to be shot, an Unterscharführer [sergeant], whose name I do not know, often came to the crematorium to eat the meaty parts from the bodies of these prisoners when they had been shot. The pieces of the body run off from the buttocks and thighs were put in boxes and buckets by this SS man, who took them away in a car. I do not know why he did this.

[This fact, which is not specific to the "Krematorium-environment", is confirmed by an early sketch and later painting by David Olère, that I deliberately abstain from presenting here, considering that it was a criminal act practiced in secret by certain SS, and that there are limits to everything, even horror.] These pathologists had to produce a report on each autopsy, which was subsequently taken away by an SS doctor.

In mid-April 1943, I was transferred to Krematorium IV which had just come into service [Officially handed over by the Bauleitung to the SS administration of the camp on 22nd March 1943], the second to come into service. Then, still in the first half of 1943, came Krematorium V.

[which came into service on 4th April 1943, but the employees of Redel & Son of Bielitz went on working there until 17th file BW 30/28, page 121], the day on which the fitting of the "Gasstret/gas-upt" doors, started the previous day, was completed by six civilians employed by Huta of Katowice (file BW 30/26, page 272.)

and finally Krematorium III [handed over on 25th June 1943]. Krematorium III was identical in systems to II, except for the internal difference that the trolleys for carrying the corpses were never used

them. In the room beside the coker stove where, in Krematorium II, the doctors were housed, in Kz III it was the gold workers (Goldarbeiter) who posed the gold teeth into rings.

Krematorium IV and V were built on the same plan [Document 4] and situated symmetrically on either side of the road [Rang-fahrbahn] running between construction stage BII and "Mexico" [BIII] in the direction of the new sauna [Zentral Sauna]. These Krematores were each fitted with two four muffle furnaces.

[Unit designated on the drawings as "eight-muffle cremation furnace", and composed of two four-muffle furnaces built as a unit. This model was designed at the beginning of December 1941 by Kurt Priifer, chief engineer of the firm Topf & Sons, a job that he did at home and in his spare time.] (Sitznachricht Weimar, Bestand 20554, letter of 6th December 1941). According to a Topf letter of 7th July 1943, this type of furnace had been ordered from Berlin by the Ruchsführer-SS on 4th December 1941 (file BW 30/27, page 244)

The muffles [on drawing 2036, m1 and m2] were in pairs on each side. One firebox [1] heated two muffles [m1 and m2], which together made up half of a furnace. Each furnace had its own chimney [1 and e2]. The undressing room [9] and the gas chambers [13, 14, 15 and 17] were installed on the ground floor, the part of the building where they were located was not so high as the "boiler room" so that [in an observer outside the building] it had the appearance of an annex to the crematorium. The boiler room [3] was separated from the undressing room [9] by a narrow corridor [7, 8] with four internal doors, allowing passage between the two rooms. The undressing room [9] was illuminated by four small barred windows giving on the exterior [in fact, 4 in the northern wall and 4 in the southern, not appearing on the original drawings, but visible on contemporary photographs]. Another door [the third] led to another corridor [10] whose entrance door [16] opened onto the yard of the Krematorium. This entrance was flanked by two windows [1 and 7].

[The "Album d'Auschwitz" published by Seidl shows that the lower half of window 1, but not 7, was bricked up to head height. This was because of the damage incurred. The fully clothed victims entered calmly through the door [16] of the corridor [10] and were directed to the undressing room [9]. Once they were naked, vulnerable and anxious, they were sent back into the corridor [10] and pushed into the gas chambers [13, 14, 15 and 17]. The sight of the interior of the first one, with no showers visible, or of its heavy entrance door with the sealing strips, sometimes caused the victims to recoil, which, combined with the pressure of those arriving from the undressing room created a crowd of panic-stricken people at this point. So the only exit, the entrance door [16] was closed, there only remained the window 1, which opened accordingly.]

Opposite the entrance door [16] in the corridor [10], there was a door that opened on to a room with a window [another two windows] which was the kitchen for the SS working in the crematorium [room

designated on drawing 2036 as "Arbeitszimmer/doctors' (pathologists) rooms", but it is not known whether this room was in fact ever used by a doctor], a kitchen where the dishes were prepared by members of the Sonderkommando. This room was next to that of the Sonderkommando prisoners [12]. In Krematorium IV, it was in the corresponding room that the Sonderkommando bootmakers, tailors and carpenters worked. There were similar workshops in Krematorium II [on the roof space] where in addition there were heaps of linen shorn from the gassed people [dred in the roof space above the waste incinerator]. The third door in the corridor [10] led to a corridor [13] with a barred window and a door [18] leading to the crematorium yard.

[This door of Krematorium IV is visible, in the background and on the right, on photo 189 of the Seidl "Album d'Auschwitz", but does not appear on the original drawings.]

From this corridor [13], the door on the right gave access to the first [14] of the gas chambers and that opposite to the smallest [17] of the chambers, communicating by another door with the biggest [15].

[This arrangement is valid ONLY FOR Krematorium V, where the traces of the door between 13 and 17 are still visible. In fact, this complex of rooms, initially planned to have two gas chambers (14 and 15) served by a corridor (13 + 17), actually had three [14, 15 and 13 + 17] and this was the arrangement in both Krematorium IV and V for a while. Kz V only was subsequently equipped with four by dividing the corridor (13 + 17) in the proportion 2/13/3, 1/3/7]. Henryk Taubert's description tends to fit between the two Krematores, since the above sentence applies in Kz V, whereas he appeared to be talking about Kz IV.]

This corridor, and the three following rooms were used by the inmates [in gassing people]. All had gas-tight doors, and also windows that had bars on the inside (due to a lack of documents or testimonies the form of the bars or grid is not known) and were closed by gas-tight shutters on the outside (see Documents 42, 43, 44 and 48.)

[The shutters of Kz IV, designated as "Gasstretentür/en/gas-tight entrance doors", were installed by civilian employees of Redel & Son on Sunday 28th February 1943 in the rooms that their foreman designated as "Gaskammer/gas chambers" on the following Tuesday [file BW 30/26, pages 73 and 68]. The doors of Kz V, called "Gasstret/gas doors", were installed by civilian employees of Huta on 16th and 17th April 1943 [file BW 30/26, page 272].

These small windows, which could be reached by the hand of a man standing outside, were used for throwing the contents of a can of Zyklon B into the gas chambers full of people [as a rule, the SS used a 50-lb ladder to reach them]. The gas chambers were about 2 metres high and had an electric lighting installation on the walls.

[Initially SET in the walls, "Chambers" 14 and 15 each had a "Wand Lampe versenkt/in wall lamp" (file BW 30/43, page 73), designated on another drawing, 2036, as "Klebeventilator" (file BW 30/43, page 60)]

but they had no ventilation system, which obliged the Sonderkommando who were removing the bodies to wear gasmasks. The uniforms were

dragged along the floor into the access corridor [10], where the harbers cut off the hair and then into the undressing room, which also served, in this kind of crematorium, as a store room for the corpses. It was a big hall [and so designated by the civilian employees of Riedel & Son] where the bodies were put while the gas chambers were being cleaned up. Then they were taken through the narrow corridor [7, 8] between the undressing room and the «boiler room», where at each end [located at 7 and 8], a derivative of the goldsmith. In the «boiler room» [5], the introduction of the corpses into the muffles was by means of metal «scoopers», as I have described. Beyond the «boiler room» [5], there was the room of the head of the commando (Kommandoführer) and beside it another one for the rest of the SS [1].

[Designated «Anfenthalraum/ress room» and intended for the prisoners, this room was annexed by the SS and divided in two. As a third of its surface was occupied by a water pumping installation for loading out the gas chambers, there remained only enough space for two tiny cells]

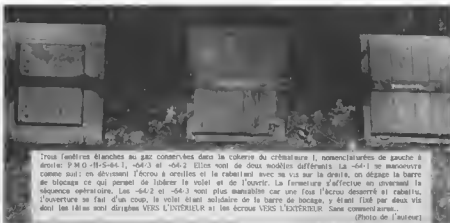
This was followed by a narrow corridor [2, which originally led to the east yard of Krematorium IV, but later had its entrance door bricked up, the SS washroom and WC [3] and the toilet store [4]. The building was entirely brick built, with a wooden roof, covered with asbestos sheets and roofing felt [which helped the fire during the Sonderkommando revolt at the beginning of October 1944]. The yards of all the crematoriums were separated from the outside world by a thick enclosure of waken and a hedge to which straw hurdles were attached.

[see Document 44] the hedge surrounding the south yard of Krematorium V, fenced intact at the liberation. These «cactus» hedges were installed very late, in July-August 1944, and this was done for the purpose, around Krematorium IV and V, and in particular the latter, of hiding the cremation pits. On the other hand, despite a letter from Bischoff of 6th November 1943 [volume 11 of the Hoess trial, Annex 7] requesting «a ring of greenery» around Krematorium I (II) and III (II), in line with the order of camp commandant Hoess, the implementation of this order remains extremely doubtful.]

In the yard [of Ka V], there were watchtowers, where SS armed with machine guns kept guard.

[They no longer exist, but were still in place at the liberation. A photo from the Archives of the Warsaw High Commission, ref 15492 (Laczkowski), shows one near the ruins of Krematorium V].

Furthermore, the whole area [of the Krematorium] was surrounded by electrified barbed wire and the yards were lit by powerful lamps. In May 1944, the SS ordered us to dig five pits in the yard of Krematorium V, between the building itself [north wall] and the drainage ditch [«Graben I.», five pits which were used later for incinerating the corpses of gassed people from the Hungarian transports. Although a track for the trolleys was laid between the building and the pits, we never used it because the SS considered it to be inconvenient, so we had to drag the corpses straight from the gas chambers into the pits [see Document 49]. At the same time, the old Bunker 2, with its incineration pits, was also made ready for use. I never worked there. It was realized that the pits burned the corpses better [than the furnaces], so the Krematorium closed down



Document 44
Three gas-tight shutters kept in the coke store of Krematorium I, classified from left to right: PMO II-5-64/1, -64/3 and -64/2. They are of two different types, -64/1 operated as follows. The butterfly nut is loosened enough to enable the bolt to be turned to the right. The fixing bar can then be moved and finally the shutter can be opened. The sequence is reversed to close it. -64/2 and -64/3 are easier to open and close. The fixing bar being attached to the shutter by two nuts and bolts, so that bar and shutter open together. The bolt HEADS ARE ON THE INSIDE and the NUTS ARE ON THE OUTSIDE, i.e. no arrangement that calls for no further comment.

(Photo by the author)



exact number of Jews of other origin gassed at Auschwitz (except for 70,000 Greek Jews burned in 1943). I think the total number gassed in the two Bunkers and the four Krematorien exceeded 4 millions. The American historian Raul Hilberg, one of the rare true specialists of «The Destruction of the European Jews» (Quadrangle Books, Chicago 1961), estimates, on the basis of the number of trains arriving at Auschwitz, that there were ONE million Jewish victims.]

This figure includes various transports from different European countries, both Jews and Aryans, as well as prisoners registered in the camp and sent for gassing after selection.

The dismantling of the Auschwitz Krematorien began in autumn 1944 [in October for Kr IV and at the end of November for Kr II and III]. The parts were taken to the goods platform and loaded onto trains. Part of the material was left in Auschwitz, where it is still to be found [in 1945] in the place where building materials were stored, known as the «Bauhof» (builder's yard) in Auschwitz I [about 1 km northwest of the main camp]. The Germans did not succeed in shipping everything, being in such a hurry to flee. To be found here are the trolley I have already described, the components of the ventilation system [of the undressing rooms of Krematorien II and III: PMO neg. nos 893, 894, 895 and 896], the frames of the cremation furnaces of Krematorien IV and V [see Document 47].

[In fact these parts are from Kr IV, those from V having remained in its ruins, twisted by the explosion that destroyed it at the end of January 1945. In the centre of the shadow of an observer on the right, it is possible to see a dozen or so covers

from the upper ventilation holes of the gas chambers of Krematorium II or III, on which subsequent toxicological analysis was to find traces of cyanides]

the doors of these same furnaces [see Document 48], the ash bins [Document 48], fire bars [Document 47], the iron grids for protecting the windows [Document 49. Despite the context, they are indeed grids for protecting the windows, not grills for roasting corpses out of doors], the fire irons from the furnaces [Document 47], a gas-tight door from a gas chamber [Documents 11, 12 and 13], clothes hooks and benches from the undressing rooms [of Krematorien II and III, Document 18] and other metal and wooden items.

With this, the deposition being completed, the hearing was closed.

The witness
Henryk Tauber

public prosecutor Edward Pechalski

examining judge Jan Sehn

clerk of the court Stefan Sejmaj

Round stamp of the «Cracow Regional Commission for the investigation of German Crimes», with its manuscript «Certified a true copy», signed by Jan Sehn.

Conclusion

In 1985, Henryk Tauber's deposition brings nothing new regarding the existence of homicidal gas chambers at Buchenau, a historic fact known to all except those who refuse to accept it. The proof of the exceptional validity of his testimony is how well it corresponds with the historical material available now that was not available in May 1945. The main criticism that can be made of his account is the relative weakness of his descriptions of Krematorien IV and V. Just as his accounts of Krematorien II and III are so detailed as to be almost tedious at times, though they are necessary, he becomes almost vague on Krematorien IV and V. But the fault hardly lies with Tauber, who must have been exhausted by the end of his deposition.

It is unfortunate that Judge Jan Sehn did not call him back for a second hearing to deal more specifically with Krematorien IV and V. After a few days' break, many details that escaped him would have returned to his memory. This is a serious omission, because, for example, neither Tauber nor Dragan, both members of the Sonderkommando and «stokers» in Krematorium IV and V describe the way in which the doors of the 8-muffle furnace, which they handled every day, were opened and closed. In so doing, they would have been led to describe the appearance of the furnace, which can now be reconstituted, due to the lack of contemporary photographs, only by means of a laborious process of comparison and cross-checking. Obviously the discovery of more Bauleitung photographs showing the internal installations of Krematorien IV and V, or of Topf drawings of these furnaces would make this criticism irrelevant.

44-11151 (H) Janisch 154
 Dresden 27. Januar 1943.

INHALT Prüfbericht der Zug. 7 2 6 2 2.

an die
 Zentralverwaltung der
 Waffen- und Heilmittel
ANWEISUNG

Akt: K.G. L. BW 30

Auf Grund der heute vorstehende stattgefundenen Inspektion mit
 und Besichtigung und der darauf folgenden Besichtigung der Kram-
 torien II, III, IV und V habe ich folgendes Festgestellt.

Kramtorien II
 Dieser Schuttschlepper ist heute bis auf kleinere Notwendigkeiten
 fertiggestellt (noch das Leinwandkeller 2 kann wegen Frost
 noch nicht ausgebaut werden).

Die 5 Stück Dreiradwalzen-Mischherungsöffnen sind fertig und werden
 o.B. trocken geliegt. Die Anlieferung der Bau- und Anlieferungs-
 anlage für die Leinwandkeller verweigerte sich in Folge der Un-
 gunstigen, sodass der Einbau voraussichtlich erst in 10 Tagen
 erfolgen kann. Damit ist die Inbetriebnahme und Kramtorien
 II bedeutet am 15.2.43 möglich.

Kramtorien III
 Die Anwesenheit des Ofenbundes sowie der Kramen sein sind für
 die Zeit mit Ende der Bauarbeiten für die Kramenherungsöffnen
 wird in 6 Tagen begonnen. Der Einbau der 5 Stück Dreiradwalzen-
 mischherungsöffnen kann in ca 5 Wochen erfolgen. Die Inbetriebnahme
 dieser Mischherungsöffnen ist frühestens am 17.4.43 möglich.

Kramtorien IV
 Der Einbau sowie die Fundamente sind fertiggestellt. Mit der
 Anlieferung des Dreiradwalzen-Mischherungsöffnen wird am Montag, der
 1.2.43 begonnen. Die Arbeiten werden am 15.2.43 beendet sein.

Kramtorien V
 Die Fundamente der Anwesenheit sowie eines Schuttschleppers sind
 in Bau. Die Fertigstellung dieses Kramtoriums wird in unmittel-
 barer von der Witterung abhängen.

- 2 -

Document 2

- 2 -

Die Besichtigung der vorstehend aufgeführten Kramtorien
 mit Insenarrichtungen hat gezeigt, dass trotz der grossen
 Bauaufgaben und der Witterungs- sowie Materialbeschaffungs-
 Schwierigkeiten die Arbeiten flott voran gehen sind.

Do. 1.2.7 2 6 2 2
 I.A. Obering. Prüfer

Prüfer: C.A.

Janisch

44-11151 (H) Janisch 154

Document 2a

Document 2 and 2a

Report by the engineer Kurt Prüfer of Meissen Topf & Söhne, dated 26th January 1943,
 concerning progress on the construction of Kramtorien II, III, IV and V

IPMO file BW 30/27 microfilm 130, pages 22 and 23 of Series source Original in the
 PMO Archives, file BW 30/34, microfilm 1000, pages 161 and 162

Translation of the passage underlined:

It is not yet possible to remove the shuttering from the
 ceiling of course cellar 2 because of the frost.

adding a sentence assimilating the ventilation and air extraction system of Leichenkeller I with the air supply to the furnaces:

«For example in the letter of 29th January 1943 quoted in my letter (not even carrying the usual indication «secret»), Verfassung does not mean «passive», but «contributive» (though Butz had in fact suggested «gas generation»). *Verfassungsbücher* designate the basement rooms where the «gaseous» mixture is fuel the crematorium furnace was prepared. These furnaces, with their air supply and extraction systems, came from Messrs Tief & Sons of Erfurt (NO-4473).»

Having realized the inconsistency of his argument, a rather more realistic Faurisson, in his «Réponse Pierre Vidal-Naquet», gave a second version under point 16:

«What V-N calls or baptizes the «gas chamber» of crematorium no 2 was in «Leichenkeller», i.e. a typical cool room... «A cool room has» he clarified. For this they used Zyklon-B, on large scale invented in 1917 and still used today all over the world.» [words underlined by the present author].

And so Faurisson, so pernickety about words, became the first person in the history of bacteriology to DESTROY PATHOGENIC GERMS WITH AN INSECTICIDE, ingesting the most common of effective disinfectants, BLEACH. This needs no comment.

Lastly, following my discovery of a «Tagesbericht/minutesheet», in which a civilian worker had written that a room in the western part of Krematorium IV was a «Gaskammer(g)as chamber», Faurisson, now with his back to the wall, suggested, a third desperate version in the second edition of the «Reply to Pierre Vidal-Naquet», page 76 «It is likely that the two rooms found suspect by J-C Pressac in crematoriums IV and V were disinfection gas chambers» (underlined by J-C- P.).

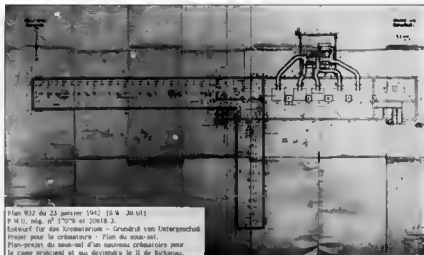
From the translation of «Verfassungsbücher» in Krematorium II by «gas generation cellar», to that of «Gaskammer» in Krematorium IV by «disinfection gas chamber», there is quite a climb-down. And yet, the sacred atom still remains unchanged «homicidal gas chambers never existed».

From the technical standpoint, a brief examination of the different types of cremation furnaces designed and installed by Topf & Sons [see Part II, Chapter 1] in the Buchenwald, Mauthausen and Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps, all of which operated without any kind of gas generation or carburation (in fact they were coke-fired), makes it possible to assess at their true value the theories put forward by Butz (in graduate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology) regarding «gas generation» and Faurisson (literary man and textual critic), with his first legend of «carburetors», second of «disinfected morgues» [using Zyklon-B!] and the final attempt at evasion, «disinfection gas chamber» [which should in any case be «disinfectants» to make sense].

The credit for highlighting this letter of 29th January 1943 and using it against the revisionists unquestionably goes to Father G. Wellers. This letter, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH the Prüfer report, provides very important evidence, but does not in itself constitute absolute proof of the existence of a HOMICIDAL gas chamber in the basement of Birkenau Krematorium II.

★

Document 3
Drawing 932, of 25th January 1942
[BN 20/01 PMO reg. nos 17079 and 20513.2]
Entwurf für das Krematorium - Grundriss von
Unterschiedl. Projektionskrematorium - business plan
Originally planned as a new crematorium for the main camp,
this building was to become Birkenau Krematorium II.



Document 4
Basement part of drawing 932 (above) depicting
«Leichenkeller 1, 2 u. 3» (see cells 1, 2 and 3)
and the installations connected with them

Translation of inscriptions:

- von feuille rectificative - plan no 131111
- see correction sheet - drawing 131111
- LEICHENKELLER 2/CORPSE CELLAR 2
- LEICHENKELLER 3
- Gang/corridor
- Rutsche/corps[e] chute
- Vorraum/visible
- Anhang/corps[e] lift

LEICHENKELLER 1 = VERGASSUNGSKELLER
CORPSE CELLAR 1 = GASSING CELLAR

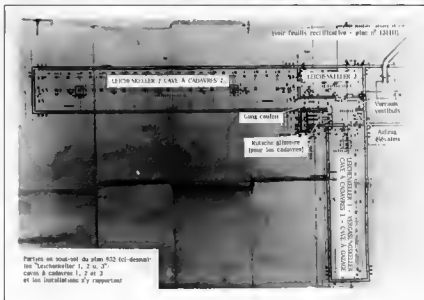




Photo 1
[June 1944 revisionist source]

General view [of part of] the «Buna» in Monowitz, an IG Farbenindustrie coal hydrogenation complex built to produce synthetic rubber using the Buna process and 778,000 tonnes a month of synfuel (methanol) using the Bergius process.



Photo 3
[1945 revisionist source]

Refectory Location unknown



Photo 2
[1942 revisionist source]

Chest X-ray devices. Location unknown.



Photo 4
[1942 revisionist source]

Ukrainian women's choir
Location, the refectory in Photo 3

AUSCHWITZ ACCORDING TO THE REVISIONISTS

Photographic exhibition of the famous holiday camp KL AUSCHWITZ

Introduction to the revisionist world

«KL Auschwitz-Birkenau an extermination camp? A myth! The photographs on this and following sheets show that it was nothing of the sort. Auschwitz was simply a labour camp like so many others. The prisoners, Jews or otherwise, were above all employed on building the huge BUNA complex at Monowitz (Photo 1 shows a small part of the whole). If they fell ill, they received appropriate treatment (Photo 2, a prisoner in striped uniform being X-rayed). Their refectory was extremely spacious (Photo 3), and on the stage at the end, different artists regularly came to perform (Photo 4, a Ukrainian women's choir). Young people, instead of living as parasites, were taught useful trades in model German enterprises (Photo 5). During their leisure time they participated in such things as sports events (Photo 6, a fencing competition). This, as proved by photographic evidence, was the true face of Auschwitz.»

The above faithfully sums up the thoughts of many revisionists, and above all, I am sure it does not betray the spirit.

Photo 1 is certainly a view of part of the Buna complex. Prisoners worked there, with a supplementary ration of «Buna Suppe», half a litre of a litre of coloured liquid served at midday. The patient undergoing X-ray examination in Photo 2 is not a prisoner, but is wearing ordinary pyjamas. If such an installation existed, it was reserved for the SS and their families. The refectory and its musical evenings was not for the ordinary prisoners, except those employed on cleaning or maintenance. It was a refectory for SS troops. The prisoner appearing on Photo 3 is too Aryan, too neat, with their straight partings and the lack of any «zebra» units to be true. Are these Jewish adolescents? Half of them are of the blood so dear to the racial theorists of the Third Reich. As for the fencing competition, the swastika on the flag and the badge worn by the fencer on the right, the presence among the spectators of SS and SA officers, members of the party in uniform and of policemen, show that this is a meeting for «Reichsdeutschen», exclusively for «sound» elements and no others.

I do not know the precise origin of these photographs from revisionist sources. They were certainly taken at Auschwitz during the year indicated, but they cannot have anything to do with the Auschwitz concentration camp and its prisoners, and still less Birkenau and its Krematorium.



Photo 5.
[1942, revisionist source]

Apprentices at the workbench.
Impossible to locate

1942 Lehrlinge an Schraubstöcken DUE 13



Photo 6.
[1942, revisionist source]

Sport: Fencing
«Betriebs sportgemeinschaft I.G. Auschwitz»
Auschwitz enterprise youth group (?)
sports installation

1944 IS P O R T • F E B R U A R Y DUE 1350

There are other equally idyllic «accidents» of the life of Auschwitz prisoners. For example, that of a «green» (common criminal) Capo chosen at random. His clothes were of good quality: civilian trousers, zebra jacket made to measure by the camp tailors, «Mütze» (beret) the same. He wore good boots made to his size by the shoemakers. An exemplary «organization» of food supplies gave him 3000 to 4000 calories a day, keeping him in perfect form so that he was able to participate actively in the leisure activities of the camp. Concerts of light or military music, film shows in the Zerkid Sanna or elsewhere, Sunday football matches organized on the Birkenau sports ground near Krematorium III, boxing matches at Monowice, bathing in fine weather in the swimming pool at the main camp. [Photo 8 to 14], where he had learned to swim, and lastly, on certain nights, to use up some of the spare energy that he had in abundance because of his light work, the boulevard of Block 24 would open its welcoming doors to him. Well-qualified dentists filled the caries caused by the «treatments» of Auschwitz. He even had an unsightly and bothersome cyst removed, the operation being carried out by a prisoner surgeon that he knew [Photo 7, upper centre and right hand photographs].

He left this favoured place with regret in January 1945. After the war, in a weak and drained Germany, whenever he ran into one of the former SS guards of the camp they would exchange memories and he could not but hanker after the «good old days». Questioned a few decades later by a historian about the Auschwitz gas chambers, he replied that he had indeed heard rumours on the subject, but he had never actually seen one himself.

That story of a Capo living in clover is based on true and verifiable facts, and is real to that extent. But there were very few Capos living like this, and their «luxury» food was taken from the rations of the average prisoner, who got only 800 to 1000 calories a day maximum, enough to keep him barely alive for three months. The «fashionable Capo» was not averse to asserting his audacity by beating some of the starving sheep he was in charge of, just for the pleasure and with perfect impunity. Some of the victims died, but so long as the bodies were there to be couched at roll call it did not matter.

The revisionist tactic here is to present such an authentic but exceptional case as the general situation.

19

Photo 7

Page 8 of the «Resistenz Album»,
concerned by Tull Vahnen and PHO reg. no. 20995/29

Presented on page 6, [PHO reg. no. 20995/27] under the title
«Ausbau des Schutzhaftlagers/completion of the protective custody camp»

Location: Sonnenlager/cream camp

Ausbau des Schutzhaftlagers



THE CENTRAL CAMP «SWIMMING POOL»

This empty basin, once filled with water, as of incalculable value to the revisionists, being clear proof of the existence of a **SWIMMING POOL** at Auschwitz concentration camp. There is no need to dwell on its importance. The presence of this installation is considered to be incompatible with the so-called «exterminations».

This basin was actually built as a reservoir for firefighting purposes, but was clearly adapted so that it could also be used as a swimming pool. The revisionists claim that the prisoners swam in it in summer. I ask them for photographic proof of this practice, for I am convinced that it was reserved for the SS. The presence of a swimming pool has no value as negative evidence against the gasings at Birkenau. In the yard behind Krematorium II there were football matches between the Sonderkommando and the SS. On the east side of Krematorium III there was a sports ground that enabled the Cypis and Vornheier to work off the excess calories they stole from the vast majority of prisoners who were constantly starved.



Photo 8



Photo 9

Photo 8

Northeast end of the «firefighting reservoir-swimming pool» located between blocks 6 and the southeastern barbed wire enclosure of the Sonderlager (main camp). View at the low diving board.

Photo 9

Overall view of the reservoir-swimming pool, looking east.

Photo 10

The reservoir-swimming pool, looking southwest with the high diving board at the far end.

Photo 11

The high diving board (north-south view).

Photo 12

The high diving board (north-south view). The take-off board itself is missing.



Photo 11

Photo 10



Photo 12

KI. AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU AS PRESENTED BY THE BAULEITUNG

The three photographs at the top of page 8 of the Bauleitung Album [photo 7] show authentic and real installations at the central camp, and they must have functioned according to the human and material possibilities. The validity of these photographs must be admitted and they cannot be dismissed as pure propaganda. Their purpose was not to mask humanitarian organizations like the Red Cross, but simply to give a favourable image of the activity of the Auschwitz Bauleitung to ranking SS who visited the camp, to whom such albums of photographs were frequently presented.

Photos 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 concern the second stage of construction of Birkenau [KGL Baubuchten III]. They are presented on page 73 of the Bauleitung Album and concern in particular the organization of the health and sanitation service [PMO reg. no. 20995/420 of the disinfection installation in the Gypsy camp]. Apart from the pine branches, mats and cloths introduced to "pretty up" the scene, this was in fact the living environment, somewhat stark of SOME of the prisoners in B 4, B. The floors shown are concrete, parquet or brick. In other barracks they were of bare earth. The WC bowls [photo 19] were a rarity, unlike the wash troughs [photo 18] that were a standard model installed all over the camp. Photos 17, 18 and 19 reflect a reality from which the great majority of prisoners were excluded.

The question of the NUMBER of prisoners with respect to the health installations of Photos 13, 14, 15 and 16 arises, and reveals the pitiful inadequacy of the facilities. How many patients could be treated with the products contained in the pharmacy cupboards? Certainly the few people shown in the half-empty sick room [Photo 16]. The two pictures are in harmony. But on Photo 17 of the large ward, one may well ask where the temperate chairs are that are so well in evidence in Photo 16, and whether the small pharmacy Photo 14 was adequate for such a large number of people. The sordid reality of a prisoner with diarrhoea lying on the upper bunk, unable to move and soiled by his own excrement, suffering from fever and whose treatment consisted of one such, not two, at an syringe attached by a string, whose drinking water was barely filtered and worsened his condition, proves that at Birkenau, these photographs with their functional titles are tragically ensnared in their insignificance.



Photo 13:
[PMO reg. no. 20995/414]
«Operationsstube»



Photo 16:
[PMO reg. no. 20995/414]
«Prisoners' sick room»



Photo 17:
[PMO reg. no. 20995/414]
«Prisoners' sick room»

Photo 14,
[FMO neg. No 20005 417]

«Laboratory»



Laborraum

Photo 14,
[FMO neg. No 20005 417]
"Laborraum"



Apothek

Photo 15,
[FMO neg. No 20005 418]
"Apothek"

Photo 15,
[FMO neg. No 20005 418]

«Pharmacy»

Photo 16,
[FMO neg. No 20005 421]

«Washroom»



Waschraum

Photo 16,
[FMO neg. No 20005 421]
"Waschraum"



Abortraum

Photo 17,
[FMO neg. No 20005 422]
"Abortraum"

Photo 17,
[FMO neg. No 20005 422]

«Tablet»

The drawing on Photo 28 is a real godsend for the revisionists. Concerning the initial arrangement for the third construction stage at Birkenau [KGL Bauabschnitt III], it formally states that this was to serve only as a mixed quarantine and hospital camp. There is INCOMPATIBILITY in the creation of a health camp a few hundred yards from four Krematorien where, according to official history, people were exterminated on a large scale. Drawing 2471 of a barracks for sick prisoners planned for BA.III [Photo 21] showing in detail the arrangement of the bunks, supports this demonstration. The two drawings date from June 1943, when the Banlieue was completing the construction of the four new Krematorien, and it is obvious that KGL Birkenau cannot have had at one and the same time two opposing functions, health care and extermination. The plan for building a very large hospital section in BA.III thus shows that the Krematorien were built purely for incineration, without any homicidal gasings, because the SS wanted to «mistake» its concentration camp labour force.

This argument seems logical and is not easy to counter. The drawings exist, and what is more they come from the SS Economic Administration Head Office in Berlin, so it was no local humanitarian initiative.

One remark, however, and above all another Banlieue drawing [Photo 22], contradicts this plausible, but theoretical, reasoning. Life and death were such close neighbours in Birkenau that the only functioning hospital sector, B.III, was right next to Krematorien III and IV. The sick prisoners placed in the front row of this demolition theatre knew that if there was a selection, or if they died, they would be reduced to ashes in these buildings.

It may appear paradoxical that prisoners should have received even a semblance of medical care just outside the Krematorien which had annihilated their relatives and could do the same to them at any moment, but this would be to disregard the capacity for «doublethink» (to use the term coined by George Orwell in «1984») of the SS hierarchy, who blindly executed orders even when they were totally contradictory.

The decisive argument proving that drawing 2521 was only a PROJECT, is to compare it with an overall plan of Birkenau, drawing

3764 of 23/3/44 [Photo 22], where BA.III no longer has 16,600 occupants as planned, but 60,000, i.e. the occupancy rate of the barracks has increased fourfold, the degree of crowding now being comparable to that of BA.II. Under these circumstances it becomes nonsense to talk of «hospital barracks».

The third construction stage at Birkenau, «Mexico» in camp parlance, was on the one hand never completed, which brought about appalling sanitary conditions, and on the other hand the part that did exist became a transit camp in May-June 1944 for the Hungarian transports when the Krematorien could not keep up with the influx.

The barracks erected in BA.III, which were scarcely half the number originally planned, were dismantled in November-December 1944 and their components apparently transported to Gross Rosen. The majority of those of BA.II and all those of Monowitz, were dismantled after the liberation of the camp and taken to the outskirts of Warsaw, to serve as emergency housing for the surviving inhabitants who returned to this city, and pending the painful rebuilding process that has continued until today.

A comparison of those drawings (the project of 30/6/43) and the actual situation as at 23/3/44 shows that planned construction was not necessarily carried out and that plans EVOLVED according to needs. This process was virtually systematic, and can be seen at the overall planning of Birkenau, in the modifications in BW 5a and 5b to create disinfection gas chambers and in the adaptation of the Krematorien to carry out mass murders.

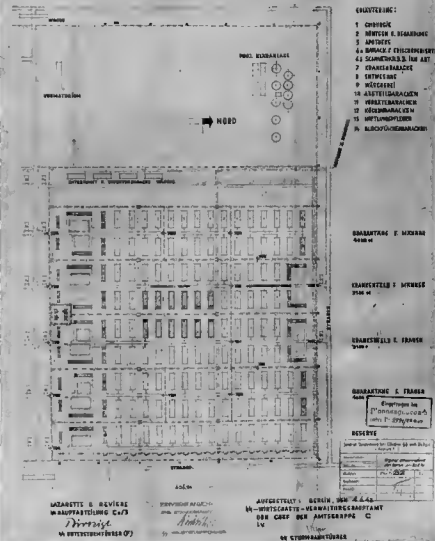
The fact that some drawings for Auschwitz were produced in Berlin, an unusual procedure, was used after the war, for example, by Untersturmführer Walter Dejaco, one of the principal «architects» of the Krematorien to exculpate himself and claim that the design of these criminal installations came from the SS Main Office in Berlin [anal of Dr Georg Meyer and others at Reutte, hearing of 3/4/62], WHICH WAS NOT THE CASE, as can be seen by studying and comparing the majority of the remaining drawings of these buildings.

Photo 28
Banlieue drawing 2521
[FMO org. no. 20743-138]

Auschwitz concentration camp -
Third construction stage
Quarantine sections and prisoners' hospital

Drawing on Berlin no. 46/43
Recovered by Auschwitz Banlieue on 7/6/43
Classified as drawing No 2521
Constructed by Banlieue
Capacity for housing 16,596 prisoners.

K. L. AUSCHWITZ - BAUBABSCHNITT X HAFTLINGS - LAZARETT U. QUARANTÄNE - ABT. M - T - 2000



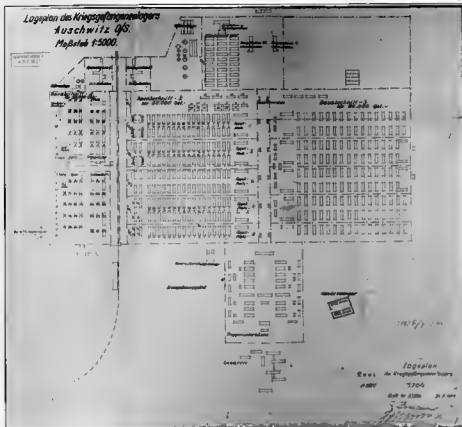


Photo 22:
Location drawing 3764 (PMO file BK 7137)

Location drawing of the POW camp.
(With site) 2 POW camp
Scale 1:5000
Drawing 3764.
Drawn by prisoner 63003 on 13/6/44
Checked by civilian worker Truchman
and approved by SS Leutnant Werner Jotham on 26/5/44.

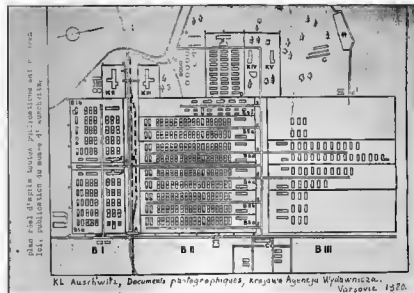


Photo 23

Translation of the inscriptions of the sheet from Faunsson's tract:

PLAN DE BIRKENAU/PLAN OF BIRKENAU

[Typed in the margin of the upper drawing]:

plan réel d'après toutes publications antérieures
ici, publication du musée d'Auschwitz
true plan, according to all previous publications.
Here, as published by the Auschwitz Museum.

[Source of upper drawing]:

KL Auschwitz, Photographie documents, Krajowa Agencja
Wydawnicza, Warsaw 1980.

[Typed in the margin of the lower drawing]:

d'après l'Album d'Auschwitz/according to the Auschwitz
Album

[Source of lower drawing]:

L'Album d'Auschwitz, page 42, Editions du Seuil, Paris 1983

Handwritten additions by Faunsson:

COUPURES/CUTS

ARTIFICE/TRICK

The existence of the prisoners' football pitch next to
Krematorium III is masked by the mention «Secteur Hôpital/
Hospital Sector»

Original inscriptions from the Album d'Auschwitz

Nord/North

Zentral Sauna [baths and disinfection]

Kläranlage I/Sewage treatment station I

Pumpenanlage/Pumping station

Krematorium II/Krematorium II

Voie 2/Track 2

Kläranlage II/Sewage treatment station II

Effektenanlage/Effects camp road

Krematorium IV/Krematorium IV

Ringstraße/Ring road

Krematorium V/Krematorium V

Réserve d'eau/Reservoir

Fosses de décantation provisoires/Provisional decantation basins

Canada II/Kanada II

Camp des femmes/Women's camp

Entrée/Entrance

Voie 1/Track 1

Hauptstraße a/Main road a

Hauptstraße b/Main road b

Quai a/Platform a

Quai central/Central platform

Quai b/Platform b

Secteur Hôpital/Hospital Sector

Camp des Tsiganes/Gypsy camp

Camp des hommes/Men's camp

Industriestraße/Industry road

Camp des Hongroises/Hungarian women's camp

Camp de Theresienstadt/Theresienstadt camp

Lagerstraße/Camp road

1 Quai a/Platform a

2 Quai b/Platform b

3 Quai central/Central platform (selection)

4 Entrée de la Lagerstraße A/Entrance from Lagerstrasse A

5 Lagerstrasse A

6 Hauptstrasse a

7 B.I.L.c camp des Tsiganes/Gypsy camp

8 B.I.L.c Secteur Hôpital/Hospital sector

9 B.I.L.c les bureaux des effets/Effects barracks

10 Effektenlagerstrasse A

Kanada II

11 Entrée du B.I.L.c/Entrance to B.I.L.c

12 Pince d'appel du B.I.L.c camp des Hongroises/

Assembly ground for B.I.L.c Hungarian women's camp

13 Kanada II

14 Hauptstrasse b

15 Entrée du Crématorium II/Entrance to Krematorium II

16 Le Birkenwald/The Birch Wood

17 Face au Crématorium V/Facing Krematorium IV

Les numéros en chiffres arabes gras correspondent aux zones de prise des
photographies par les SS, classées dans l'ordre de l'Album

The bold arabic numbers correspond to the areas where the photographs were
taken by the SS, classified in the order of the Album.

Drawing 3764 [Photo 22], an overall plan of the Banlieue camp was used as a basis for
positioning the photographs in the «Album d'Auschwitz» published by Seuil in November 1983,
for which I created the French version by adding historical details to the original English text,
rearranging the order of the photographs and adding an annex on the four Birkenau Krematoria.

As soon as the «Album d'Auschwitz» was published, a tract signed R Faunsson and dated
9th December 1983 was received by different media representatives, accusing me of betraying the

«cause of the victims of the deportation» by a number of little tricks, of which here is an
example.

In order to make us think that the path taken by the deportees finished up at
Krematorium II and III, [this author has] truncated the plan of Auschwitz-Birkenau

In reality, the road continued to the big shower and disinfection [sic] centre, the
«Zentral Sauna».

As will be seen below, we have marked with arrows the two cuts unjustifiably made
and we present the true plan of the camp, as it appears in all the standard works »

The verso of this text was the page reproduced here [Photo 23], which was but the preamble to ten
pages of venomous criticism, which I was easily able to counter in an article whose publication
was not deemed necessary.

R Faunsson, the «professor», who, far from being newcomer to the negation of the
existence of homicidal gas chambers, has already devoted 20 years of his life to it, is capable of
original thought, but is not above appropriating the work of others, in well-trad academic fashion.
He hates the emergence of «new historical facts», already being exhausted by the specious
intellectual efforts he had to make, at least at the beginning of his «Affaire» to try to refute the raw
(two) convincing documents known in France proving the reality of the Birkenau gas chambers.
Since then, he has been living on his «legal reputations» acquired thanks to a decision of the Paris
court of appeal, 1st chamber, section A, of 26th April 1983, to the effect that «it must be observed
that the accusations of superficially levelled against him [R Faunsson] lack pertinence and are
not satisfactorily established», and at present «nobody can establish proof of falsehood». His
method of historical investigation being thus «recognized», which would only be fair if he
indeed the author, which still remains to be demonstrated, the fact remains that he never pressed
research to the limit for fear of finding the strict truth. Furthermore, by virtue of this decision he
is able to drag before the courts anybody who accuses him of being a «faillite», which is a strange
state of affairs.

Comparing the original Banlieue drawing with the Seuil drawing reveals the low inlets
to which I alluded. If Faunsson does not like the plan of the POW camp, let him apply to the ex-
Auschwitz Banlieue, who will be happy to show him about forty others, all different. Unfortunately
for Faunsson, these drawings are in Eastern Europe. In Oswiecim, in the hands of the
«Polono-Stalinist» falsifiers he has so often denounced. As for the «standard works» he mentions,
it should be pointed out that the FIRST concrete evidence was published in Poland in 1946,
«Białym I, Główny Komisj Badania Zbrodni Niemieclch w Polsce» [Bulletin I of the Central
Commission for the investigation of German crimes in Poland], and includes a chapter on
Auschwitz, certainly written by Judge Jan Sehn, who selected precisely Banlieue drawing 3764
of 23/3/44 to represent the Birkenau camp [page 64, illustration 7]. I think it was a good choice,
because the drawing is clear

The unrealized future of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp

The unrealised future of K L Auschwitz-Birkenau

What the possible future of the Auschwitz-Birkenau complex could have been is a topic that has not been researched and never discussed in the literature. As far as the archivist of the Auschwitz Museum can recall, only two people have ever taken an interest in this now fictional evolution: a former prisoner and the present author.

There were three main stages in the development of KL Auschwitz:

1. Creation of the Stammlager or main camp (Auschwitz I) in July 1940;
2. Creation of a prisoner of war camp at Birkenau (Auschwitz II) in October 1941;
3. Construction of a labour camp by IG Farbenindustrie at Monowitz (Auschwitz III) in late October 1943.

* The main camp was opened as a «protective custody» [Schutzhäft] camp and was intended to receive Polish prisoners from Silesia. Its rapid development was slowed somewhat by two successive directives: the decision to build a POW camp (for Soviet prisoners) and the decision to exterminate the Jews. The result was KGL («POW camp» - the name was not changed) Birkenau, with its four Krematorien and its numerous gas chambers. The criminal conversion of the POW camp was to be pushed even further according to 1944 plans, but these could not be implemented for lack of material resources. This last stage of homicidal activity was thus aborted and the construction of the required facilities never completed, but the instruments of extermination, absolute errors on the political and human planes, were in any case destined for demolition, whatever the outcome of the war for Germany and her satellites.

[The probable evolution of these two programmes, the extension of the main camp and reinforcement of the criminal structure of the POW camp, interrupted before they were completed, are investigated in the light of the remaining evidence from two standpoints: a future **without** extermination and one **with** extermination.]

The Monowitz camp, directly linked with German industry, represented the future «solution» for the concentration camp system: slavery in the service of a «thousand year Reich», triumphant or in its death throes. The development of Monowitz, abandoned on 18th January 1945, prefigured the way in which post-war societies, in the West as well as in the East, would gradually come to be organized, with the labour force dependent on the factories and the prison huts or barracks being replaced by public housing. The improvement on the «Monowitz principle» was to be more perceptible in the West, where fairly complete freedom has replaced barbed wire and armed guards. As for the food and the three-tier wooden bunks, the «liberal» and «socialist» regimes have succeeded to differing extents in obtaining sufficient of the former and replacing the latter by decent flats or comfortable houses.

THE ABORTED FUTURE OF THE STAMMLAGER

WITHOUT EXTERMINATION

Attempt to investigate the future of

KL Auschwitz (the Stammlager)

as it was being planned in 1941 and 1942

The protective custody camp, later concentration camp at Oswiecim (Auschwitz) was to be part of the development of a German settlement of colony (Siedlung) in this region that the Nazis considered to be too Polish. Before the order to exterminate the Jews arrived and radically changed the face of the camp, the Bauleitung was asked to draw up development plans which were intended to be an «SS model» for the Eastern Marches.

This project was considered so important that architects came from Berlin to work on the spot. The style, quality and power of the buildings envisaged are perfectly reflected in the artist's impression of the «Ceremonial Hall» of the New Headquarters (Kommandantur) at Auschwitz (Document 1). The grandiose structures of the SS builders were intended to last a thousand years.

The development plan for the town of Auschwitz had three main components.

1. Extension and reorganization of the nonconcentration camp, a pool of labour based on the old Polish barracks and the creation of a monumental SS complex with adjoining family quarters to the north. An industrial zone was to flank the camp on the west. (Document 3 is the overall plan of the project, Documents 1 and 2 are artists' impressions of the interior of the New Garrison Headquarters and Documents 4 to 10 are elevations and plan drawings of the SS accommodation in the northern part of the garrison area).

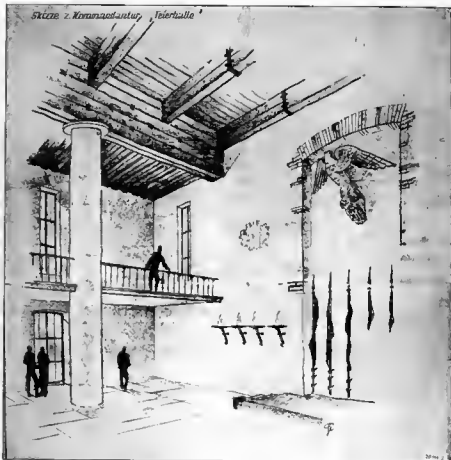
2. Reorganization of the town of Auschwitz and of its centre, designed as a military and industrial city. To the east is the vital link between the city and the outside world, the railway station. The concentration camp, as located in the Zasole district, between the station, the river Sola and the old town, but for the SS it was not to belong to the city of Auschwitz, being territorially, administratively and legally distinct from it. It was simply to be a «highly concentrated» working class suburb. There were to be three German residential districts centred on the old town, Blonin (to the east), Dwory (to the west) and Osiedle (to the south). The number of bridges across the Sola (to the east) and the Vistula (to the north) was to be eight (against the pre-war figure (Document 1)).

development plan for the Auschwitz region; Document 13, Nazi Party community centre, its precise location not known, but somewhere near the IG Farbenindustrie zone, Document 14, plan of the forum of the new city, eastern district, Document 15, model of the proposed redevelopment of the old town; Document 16, partial view of a model of a housing estate, probably in the southern district of the city)

Paradoxically enough, the development plans for the town of Auschwitz produced in September-October 1942 were considered «secret», whereas the project for a crematorium in January 1942 was not. The January drawings, however, concerned a perfectly normal cremation installation whose existence could be revealed, though when its conversion to a criminal instrument was envisaged the situation changed. On the other hand, the development plans, and hence the drawings, for the town of Auschwitz were directly connected with the German war effort and the presence of a vital component: a synthetic fuel plant. From the standpoint of the conflict in progress, knowledge by the Allies of German industrial projects in the Auschwitz area would have been more valuable than the plans of buildings that resembled bunkers.

3. Installation in Monowitz of a huge industrial complex by IG Farbenindustrie, producing synthetic fuel (methanol) and synthetic rubber (the Buna plant). This industrial centre was located on the Silesian coal basin and used coal as its raw material. The engineers and technicians were to be Germans or nationals of other Axis countries, semi-skilled workers would be supplied by compulsory labour schemes in the occupied countries and unskilled workers would be prisoners of war and internees from the camp.

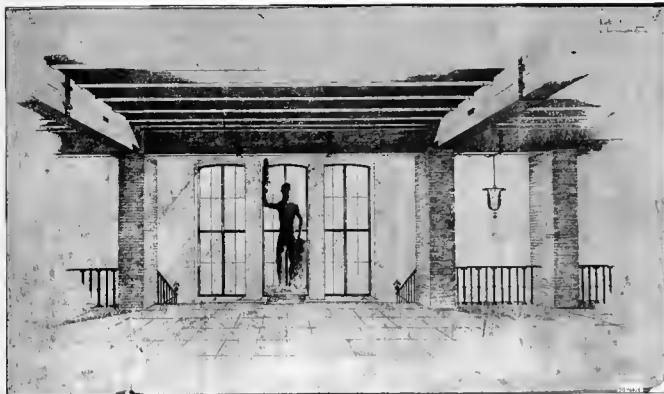
Other industrial zones were to be established around the giant IG Farben complex, two south of the camp: one northwest of the station and one north of Dwory. The industrial strip to the south of the camp and the Monowitz complex were the only ones actually built.



Document 1
[PMO Veg. no. 20944/2]

Skizze: Kommandantur-Feierhalle.
Sketch for the «Ceremonial Hall» of the garrison headquarters

The sketch is dated 1942, but the artist's initials are not known. The sketch shows the interior of the hall in the main building of the new headquarters, but it cannot be located exactly because we have no detailed drawing of BWB/WB/zone 173, of which Documents 1 and 2 are the only known dispositions of the interior arrangements.



Document 2
[PMO file no. 10441]

Undated sketch by an unknown author. The handwritten inscription in the top right-hand corner of the sketch refers to the German headquarters in the top right-hand corner.

This sketch is of the interior of the same building in Document 1, BW 177, whose precise location is not known. It appears to show the first floor, at the top of a monumental staircase.

Document 4 - Translation of inscriptions (from left to right, by district):

Smolny:

Nach Ranko/To Ranko
Sola/River] Sola
Fleider taller/Viabla
Reis and Tesserplatz/Bridge and competition ground
Deutsche Anordnungsarbeiten/German Equipment Works
[DAW, an SS enterprise]
Erweiterungsgelände für die Anordnungsarbeiten/Land for the extension of the DAW

New Garrison Headquarters:

Garagehof/Vehicle depot
Parkplätze/Parking area
Einbahn Kl./Vehicle entrance to the camp
Kommunaleinrichtung/Headquarters
Kantine/Mess
Anstalt/Hangar/Exhibition hall
Truppenunterkunft/Troop accommodation
Wasserhochbehälter/Services building
Wasserturm/Water tower
Fernheizwerk/District heating plant
Neue Brücke/New bridge

Concentration camp

Wäscherei-Gießerei/Laundry building
Schuhfabrik/Fabric shoe camp
Krankenhaus/Hotpital
Gelände/Fission
Geplante Erweiterung der Schutzhaftlager/Planned extension of the new, new camp
Wache/Guards

Concentration camp SS

Kasernenbereich/Barrack area
Garagehof/Vehicle depot
Einbahnplatz/Parade ground
Einbahn Kasernen/Vehicle entrance to barrack area

SS family quarters

Gasthaus/Guesthouse
Hauptplatz [in Einbahn] zur Siedlung/Main street
Land entrance to family quarters
Rathausverwaltung/Municipal offices
Stadtkern/Clock tower
Hotel
Kaffee/Café
Laden/Shops
Arkaden/Atracade
Binnenhof/Innside
Gänge/Ganges
Kindergarten
Schule/School
Volkshalle/HJ Heim-Kino/Community hall, Hitler Youth house
Land cinema
Bahnhofplatz/Railway square
Nach Anschwitz/To Anshwitz

Sports stadium

Stadion/Stadium
Parkplätze/Cat park
Hauptzugang zum Stadion/Main entrance to stadium
WC
Läden/Shops
Gaststätte/Restaurant
Teamplätze/Tennis courts
Für Tamer/for competition
Klubhaus/Clubhouse
Tribüne/Stand
Tribüne für Veranstaltung auf dem Wasser/Stand for event held on the water
Umklekabine/Changing rooms

Old bridge area

Alte Brücke/Old bridge
Nach Anschwitz/To Anshwitz
Bebauungszone der Stadt Anschwitz/Anshwitz town building zone
Baustelleneinrichtung/Construction site



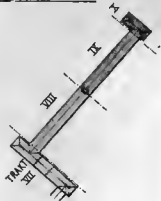
Document 3 (PMO Noz on 20/11/11)

KONZENTRATIONSLAGER AL SCHWITZ
Generaldevelopmentplan: KL and Sirdling on Maßstab 1:20.000
AUSCHWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP
General development plan: concentration camp and housing
Scale 1:20.000

The original is a very large drawing in colour, beautifully executed by a real professional, showing the projected development from the main camp to the old Auschwitz bridge.

There is no date, number or draughtsman's name, but it probably dates from 1941 or 1942.

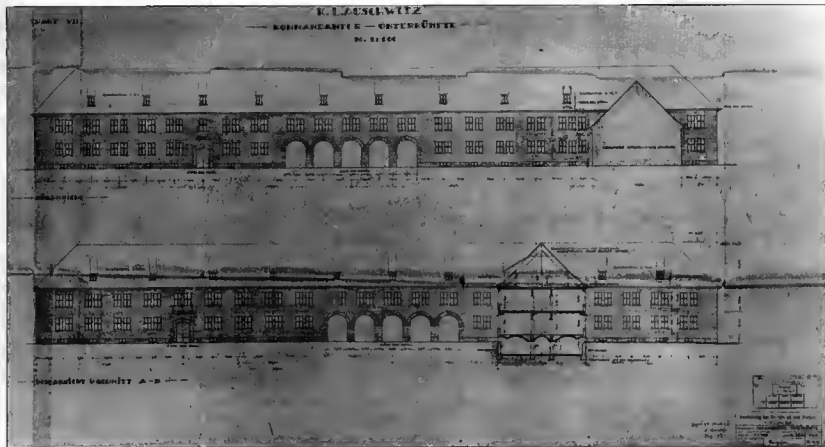
Détail du plan de la Nouvelle Kommandantur, S.W. 173, divisé en quatre parties - VII, VIII, IX et X - selon les plans restants.



Document 3c

Detail of the plan of the new Garrison Headquarters, SW 173, divided into four sections VII, VIII, IX and X as on the existing drawings.

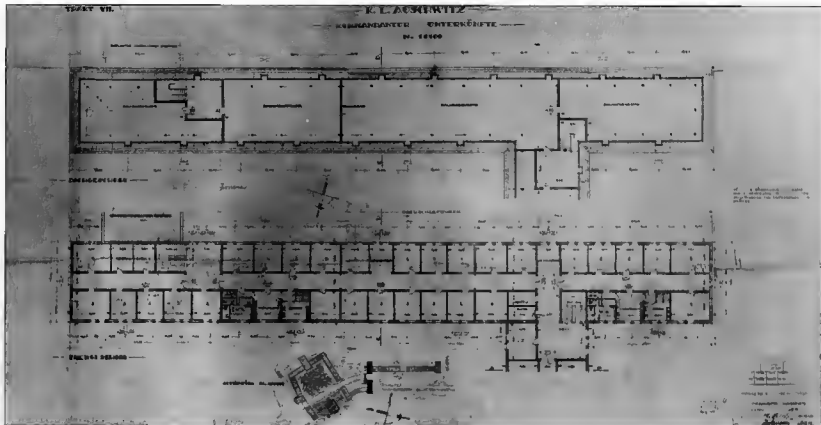
The small sketch below the development plan shows the layout of the SS accommodation in the north wing of the new Garrison Headquarters, SW 173 as represented on seven existing drawings: all dated 14th December 1942: 56A, 57A, 58A (Trak) section VII, 61A (section VIII), 64A (section IX), 62A (section IX-X) and 65A (section XI), produced under the direction of one Wehrmann, an architect sent from Berlin, who worked in the Auschwitz Rindellung only until 31st December 1942. These seven drawings give an idea of the scale of the planned development.



Document 4:
JPMO Neg. no. 2113677

Kommandeur Unterkußle/Garvey 180 gartenstein
Drawing SKA of 14th December 1942.
Scale 1:100

• Südansicht/South elevation
• Nordansicht u. Seite A, B/North elevation and section A-B
Views of the south and south sides of section VII



Document 5:
[PMO Neg no 21136-5]

Kommandantur Untereckhof/Garrison HQ accommodation

Drawing 57A of 14th December 1942

Scale 1:100

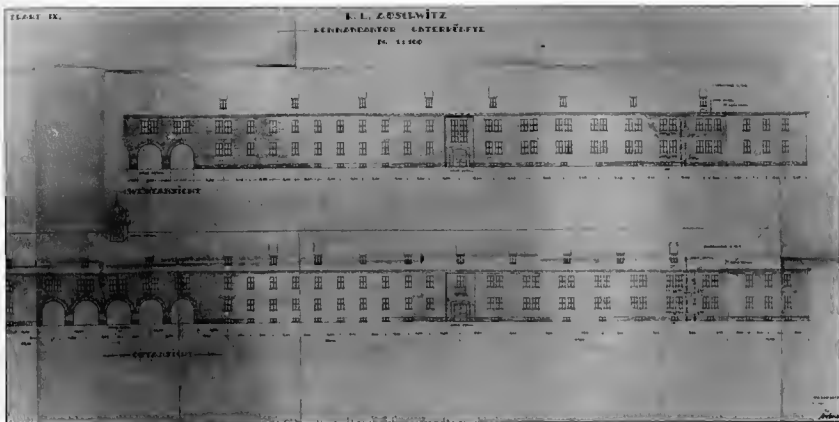
- Dachgeschoss/Wardroom

- Obergeschoss/Upper mess

Plan of the mess hall and upper mess area with a siting drawing on a scale of 1:2000

showing the location of victim VII

This building = as to house 104 SS Obercharfriseur (senior NCOs)



Document 8:
[PMO Hrg. no. 21/30/2]

Kennelkanton, Unteroffizier/Canton 18Q accommodation

Drawing 64A of 14th December 1942

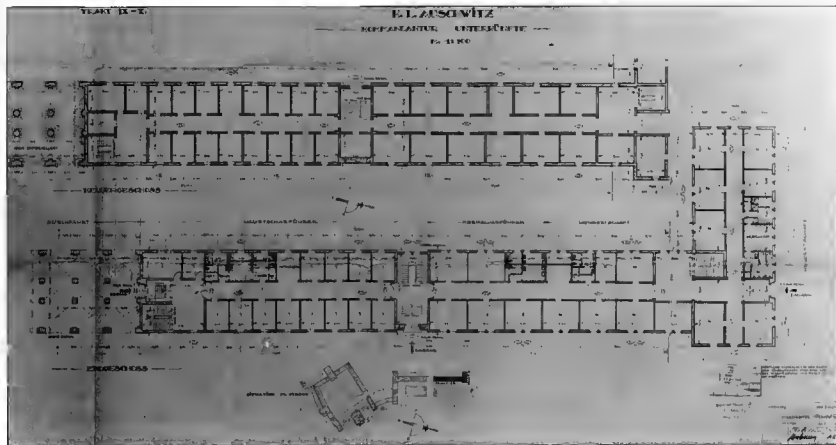
Scale 1:100

- Westseite/West elevation

- Ostseite/East elevation

Views of the west and east sides of section IX, extending section VIII

Section IX was to house 94 SS NCOs and men



Document 9:
[PMBG Neg no 211303]

Kommunisten/Umschicht/Gewerks HQ accommodation

Drawing 62A of 14th December 1942

Scale 1:100

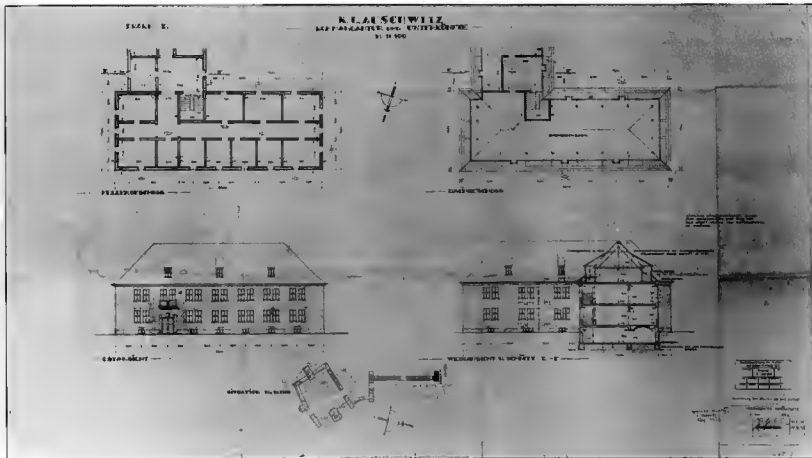
Kellergeschoss/Basement

Erdgeschoss/Ground floor

Hauptgeschosse/Etagen, Gewerkschaftsbüro/Master-workers and entire staff-workers

Durchfahrt/Passage

Plans of the basement area of sections IX and X and the ground floor of sections IX and X, with



Document 16:
JPMO Neg no 21130/1

Kommandantur-Unterkünfte, Carlson 18Q accommodation
Drawing 65A of 14th December 1942
Scale 1:100
Kellergeschoss/Basement
Dischenschloß/Water space
Ordnung/East elevation
Westmarkts u. Schloss E-F/West elevation and section E-F
Plans of the basement area and roof space and views of the west and east sides of section X
Section X was to house 52 SS men

The total capacity of the north wing of the New German Headquarters was planned to be about 350 men. The war was to reduce these medieval 35 dorms to nothing, however. At Bielefeld, for example, the dorms became wash basins, like those of the prisoners, though there was a world of difference in their living conditions and surroundings from those of the prisoners, who were indistinguishably bad.

Document 11:
[PMO Neg. nos 10283 and 30584]

Verkehrsplan und Struktur-Skizze zum Bebauungsplan für die Stadt Auschwitz
Traffic plan and land use sketch for the Auschwitz urban development plan Scale 1:25000

Drawn in October 1942

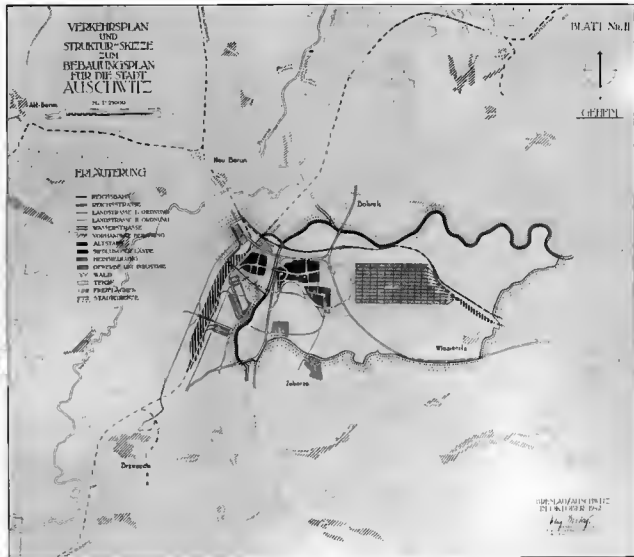
Translation of inscriptions
(from top to bottom and left to right):

Erläuterung/Key

- Reichsbahn/Reich state railway
- Landstraße I Ordnung/Main road
- Landstraße II Ordnung/Secondary road
- Wasserstraße/Waterway
- Vorhandene Bebauung/Existing built-up areas
- Altstadt/Old town centre
- Siedlungsgelände/Settlement area
- Heimbildung/Residential area
- Gewerbe und Industrie/Trade and Industry
- Wald/Woods
- Teich/Pond
- Freiflächen/Open spaces
- Stadtgrenze/Town boundary
- Nach Katowitz/To Katowice
- Nach Działowa/To Działowa
- Weichsel/Vistula
- KZ Lager/Concentration camp
- SS Kasernen/SS barracks
- IG Werk/IG Farben/IG Farben industrial complex

Blatt Nr. II/Sheet No. II
GEHEIM/SECRET

Breslau/Auschwitz im Oktober 1942/Breslau-Auschwitz, October 1942
[unknown signature]
Spezialkommission für den Bebauungsplan der Stadt Auschwitz
Specially commissioned for the Auschwitz urban development plan



Wirtschaftsplan für den Beseitigungsplan der Stadt Auschwitz
Economic activity map for the Auschwitz urban
development plan Malinsk/Göde 1-10000

Drawn at September 1942

Translation of inscriptions
(from top to bottom and left to right):

GEHEIM/SECRET

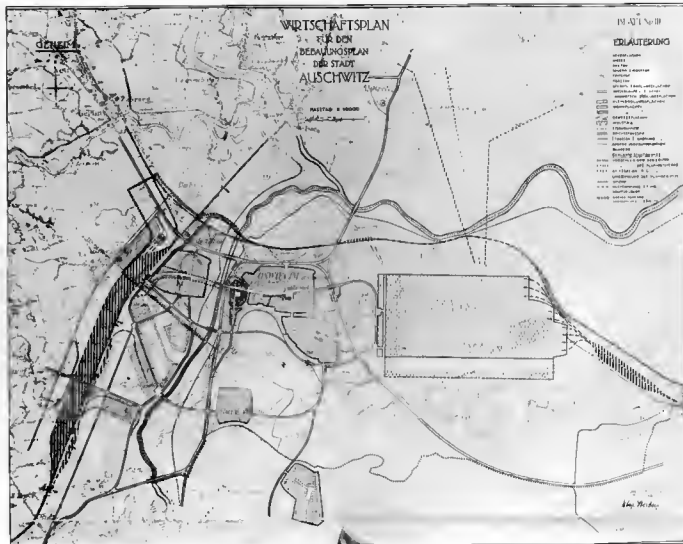
- KZ Lager/Concentration camp
- SS Kasernen/SS barracks
- Blatt Nr. II/USheet No. II

Brennplan/Key

- Ackerflächcn/Acreable area
- Wiesen/Meadow
- Gärten/Market garden
- Obstplantagen/Small orchards
- Friedhöfe/Cemeteries
- Forsten/Forests
- Öffentl. Erholungsflächen/Public recreation area
- Wasserläufe n Flächen/Watercourses and pools
- Landwirtschaftl. Siedlungsflächen/Farming settlements
- Kleinindustriellen Flächen/Small industrial
- Wohnflächen/Residential area
- Gewerbeflächen/Trading area
- Industriell./Industrial
- Eisenbahnen/Railway
- Radialstraßen/Trunk roads
- Straße f. Ordnung/Main road
- Andere Verkehrsstraßen/Other roads
- Radwege/Cycle tracks

- Gplanta. Stadtgrenze/Planned town boundary
- Vorschlag des Lagerplans/Suggestion by the govern-
ment
- Vorschlag des Planerlasses/ suggestion by the plan-
ner
- Amtsbezirk KL (Vorschlag SS)/Area of jurisdiction of
the concentration camp (SS suggestion)
- Umgrenzung des Planbezirks/delimitation of the
planning area
- Deiche/Dykes
- Hochspannungslinie/High tension line
- Drakentbahn/Cable railway
- Grenze nach der Verhandlung 23/9/42/Boundary after
the hearing of 23/9/42

Breslau/Ansbach im Sept. 1942/Breslau-Ansbach, Sep-
tember 1942
[unknown signature]
Sonderbeauftragter für den Brennplan der Stadt
Ansbach
Specially commissioned for the Ansbach urban develop-
ment plan

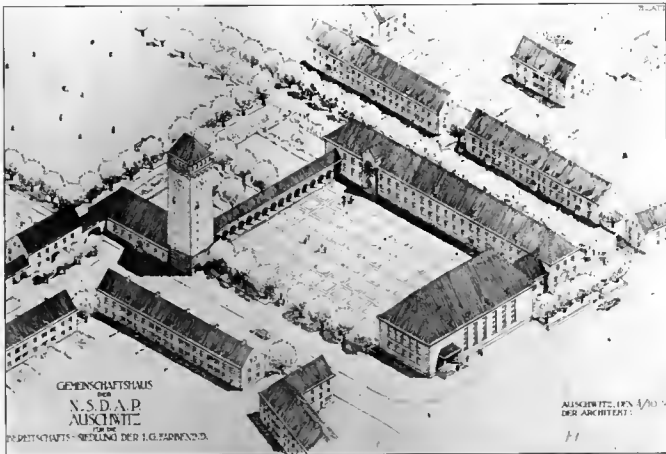


A considerable part of the industrial programme for the Auschwitz region was actually implemented, because this was essential to the war effort. On the other hand, the more «esthetic» development of the concentration camp and the SS colony was not realized, halted by the extermination of the Jews and relegated to the lowest of the economic priorities of the moment. Despite the lack of written documents, the overall picture of the SS colonisation of Oswiecim can be clearly seen thanks to the remaining drawings [see documents]. In order to translate their view of the world, the SS in fact preferred plans and drawings to written documents. The size and importance of the «Bauzeichnungen» and their drawing offices is eloquent in this regard. Drawings made it possible to represent their ideas in concrete form, providing precise representations comprehensible to all, whereas written documents, even very detailed, still leave room for personal interpretation and a certain fuzziness and can never produce results as clear and reproducible as drawings.

Knowing what the SS planned for the Auschwitz region, one may ask:

- Whether it would have been materially possible to realize the projects, in particular the buildings for the SS and the organization of the whole town on the lines of a luxurious barracks. If the war had indeed in favour of the Axis powers in 1942 and been won quickly, the buildings could have been constructed and finished at the price of stepping up the concentration camp system, but using the prison labour more «sparingly», which would have meant the end of the earlier system of «three months of slave labour» and afterwards the chimney? Initially, Hoess, the first Camp Commandant of Auschwitz was very much in favour of this solution (no doubt mainly on the grounds of efficiency), but his efforts were in vain first of all because the other SS did not see it his way, having instituted a system of ill-treating the prisoners, and then because it became impracticable because of the senseless orders he received and the pressure of the general situation.
- What social progress did the SS offer with their model colony? The answer is disquieting, a return to the social order of a thousand years ago, through the establishment of a neo-feudal society with an SS aristocracy, new knights in shining (monastic) armour, reigning over their serfs, prisoners and others of lowly status. The stresses engendered by such a society would be so strong that they would sooner or later have become explosive. Modern day «peasant revolts» would have broken out, and the system, always in a state of latent crisis, would have broken down, undermined from within. The SS vision of the future was simply utopian.

Other attempts have been made to analyze what would have happened to a Germany that had won the Second World War, and in these the position of the SS would have been dominant. Albert Speer outlines the prospects in his «Der Sklavenstaat» [The slave state]. The «colonization» of the east, defined essentially as a programme of major works and huge constructions, would have cost the lives, according to Speer's calculations, of 29 million prisoners, being literally worked to death in «SS construction brigades», each made up of 4 800 men in 24 companies. These men would have been supplied by the concentration camps. The «Ostmark/Eastern area» would have become a colonization area, criss-crossed by motorways, with towns of 15 to 20,000 people located at the major intersections, surrounded by a purely



Document 13
[PMO Neg. no 20589]

Gemeinschaftsbau der NSDAP Auschwitz für die Betriebskolonisation der IG Farbenwerke
Auschwitz NSDAP [Nazi Party] community centre for the IG Farbenworks workers' dormitory
Blau Nr VI 175000 Nr VI 1
Auschwitz 4/50/41
The Architect [unknown signature]

Germanic rural population [note of 17th August 1942 from the SS Head Office, G. Berger, to Hammel (Bla NS 19/10w 1704)]. The importance of European communications had already been stressed in article in the review *«Signal»* [No. 20, 2nd issue of October 1941, pages 41 to 45] describing «international traffic in a Europe without frontiers».

Elsewhere, a former Waffen-SS general, the Belgian Léon Degrelle, head of the Rux, in «Hüter pour 1000 ans» [Höfles for 1000 years] (Éditions de la Table Ronde, Paris 1969) enthusiastically describes the East as Hailm new it (pages 212 and 213):

«Giant canals would unite all the great rivers of Europe, open to the boats of all, from the Seine to the Volga, from the Valtis to the Danube. Double-decker trains - goods below, passengers above - running on raised tracks of 4 meter gauge, would easily cover the huge territories of the East, where the former soldiers [the Waffen-SS] would have built the world's most modern farms and industries.»

But who would not ask: «And what would be the attitude of the Germans towards the Slavs?» Degrelle has the answer [pages 247 and 248]:

«Nazi theorists proclaimed violently anti-slavic theories. They would not have resisted ten years of Russo-Germanic interpenetration. Russians of both sexes would very quickly have learned German. They often know it already. [During the Russian campaign of 1941-42] we found German textbooks in all the schools. The language link would have been established more quickly in Russia than anywhere else in Europe.

The German has admirable qualities as a technician and organizer. But the Russian, a dreamer, is more imaginative and has a quicker mind. The one would have complemented the other. And blood ties would have done the rest. The young Germans, naturally enough and whatever their propaganda machine may have done to oppose it, would have learned Russian girls in their hundreds of thousands. They lived them, and the creation of the Europe of the East would have been completed in the most pleasant fashion. The Germano-Russian union would have been a great success.

Yes, the problem was enormous: to unite five hundred million Europeans.»

On the basis of Speer's «forecast» or Degrelle's «visions», everyone infers, according to his personal philosophy, to appreciate or otherwise the proposed developments and the price to be paid.

Paradoxically, Degrelle's dream seem more tangible than Speer's socialist calculations. This is due to their different personalities. Speer, while being an unworldly bureaucrat and a remarkable organizer whose work extended the armed resistance of the Reich for at least a year, did not have the stuff of a «leader of the people» like Degrelle. Already before the war, the Belgian dealt with Hitler as man to man, for both were of the same stamp, visionaries imposing their view of the future on crowds that they were able to subjugate, control and manipulate by their oratory alone. They had such powers of persuasion that they could annihilate individualities, a kind of power that makes this type of man, though captivating and able to command unshakable devotion, dangerous for democracies. In a triumphant

Document 14
(1940 Nrg no 2508b)

Zum Behausungsplan für die Stadt Auschwitz
Gestaltung des Parteiführers in der Neustadt Ost
Für die Ausbreitung urban development plan
Configuration of the Party forum in the new town, eastern district
Scale 1:200

Drawn in December 1942

Translation of inscriptions

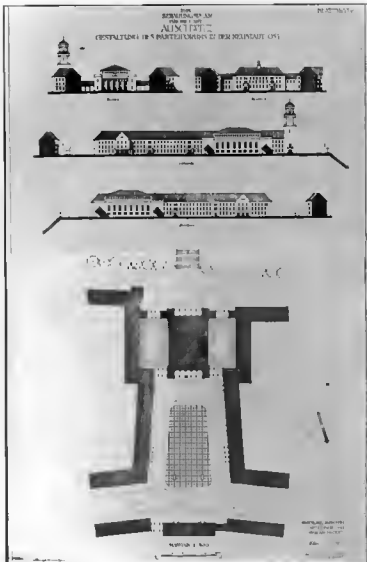
- Südseite/South elevation
- Nordseite/North elevation
- Ostseite/East elevation
- Westseite/West elevation

Blatt Nr VI F/Sheet No VI F
Breslau/Auschwitz December 1942/Breslau-Auschwitz, December 1942

The Architect [unknown signature]
Sonderbeauftragter für den Behausungsplan der Stadt Auschwitz
Specially commissioned for the Auschwitz urban development plan

Germany, in total control of Europe, Degrelle would have had a good chance of succeeding Hitler - who had designated him his spiritual son in 1944 - at the head of a totalitarian SS empire stretching from the Atlantic seaboard to the Urals. He would have continued his predecessor's work in the East. Although ill-adapted to contemporary civilization, for example not even being able to drive a car, Degrelle, not concerned by this type of petty detail, conceived his role as being both the driving force controlling the will of millions of Europeans and as a guide leading them in the direction he saw for the future. He was not concerned with the organization of the work, the material and human resources that had to be harnessed, the programmes to be drawn up. That was the job of others, of high-level technicians just like Speer. But Degrelle, a convinced Catholic, would not have allowed nor been able to accept the colonization of the Eastern regions at a cost of 29 million victims, an exorbitant cost and a procedure contrary to his religious convictions. The millions of Jews exterminated during the Second World War raised such a furor that 29 million more deaths would not have been ignored and would have raised an even greater storm of protest. Speer's estimates, even though they are based on genuine SS documents, are unrealistic. A Degrelle would have found, as have others found, some other way, though still no doubt involving compulsion, to implement his «civilizing mission» in the East.

The fate of arms decided otherwise.

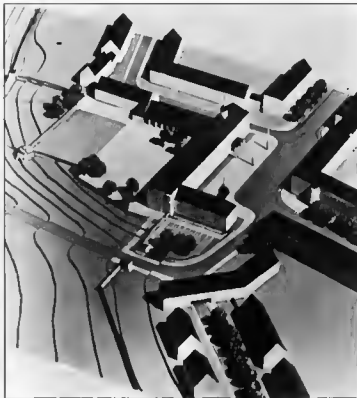




Document 15
[PMD Neg. no. 16266]

Model made by the SS during the war showing the planned redevelopment of the old town of Apachowitz.

The main street in this model is the present «Judenstraße» (Jews' street), which leads from the only existing bridge over the Salza (left foreground). The old town centre undergoes no great changes, retaining the same configuration as before the war. The castle remains in its present (left foreground). On the other hand, the «Rachau» Holy Virgin Mary's church, about fifty metres from the castle, on the same side of the road, was to be demolished. The Party forum (Document 14) is just beyond the town centre on the right of the same street. The comparisons on the model are simplified and incomplete as compared with the drawings in Sheet VI F.



Document 16
[PMD Neg. no. 16367]

Partial view of another model built by the SS during the war showing the redevelopment of one of the districts of the town of Ausschwitz.

Judging by the numbers on the model, this district was probably in the middle of the city.

The unrealized future of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp

BIRKENAU 1945: THE EXTERMINATION STATION

BIRKENAU 1945 or THE UNREALIZED FUTURE:

PROJECT FOR AN EXTERMINATION STATION

Drawing 4054 [document 1], which in the light of present knowledge might be called the «extermination station», is something of an enigma. It depicts the very first stage of the definitive arrangements of the «special» part of Birkenau. In «*Commandant of Auschwitz*» (Pan Books, London 1961), Rudolf Hoess says on page 217:

«The three railway tracks between building sectors I and II (I, II and IV) in Birkenau camp were to be reconstructed as a station and needed in and the line were to be extended to crematoria III (V) and IV (V) so that the unloading could also be hidden from the eyes of unauthorised people. Once again shortage of materials prevented this plan from being carried out.»

In fact, linking Krematorium II and III with Krematorium IV and V by rail would appear to be rather difficult because of the proximity of the second sewage treatment plant (Kläranlage II) and the sewer evacuation channels crossing the area where the trains would have to pass. No drawing for this project is known. However, drawing 4054 confirms the intention of the SS to convert the notorious Birkenau «camp» into a true «reception station».

Krematorium II and III are precisely shown on the drawing, exactly as captured on the photographs in the «*Auschwitz Album*», taken in May-June 1944 and the aerial photograph of 25th August 1944 (document 2), with the additional installations not shown on the initial drawing: in the case of Kr II, a lean-to shed extending eastwards the roof over the waste incineration furnace, in which goods with no market value (personal papers and prayer books taken from new arrivals) were stored awaiting destruction, in the case of Kr III, a smaller construction having the same function built onto the east wall of the waste incinerator with the access stairways to the Leichenkeller 2 (undressing rooms) are drawn and clearly visible.

The ambiguity of this drawing lies in the term «Gemüsehalle/vegetable hall». If each of the six buildings alongside the railway had been labelled «Effektenkammer/hall for effects», the drawing would have become an extremely unimpeachable piece of evidence against the SS, and I believe in fact it still is. This camouflage of a drawing of installations whose purpose - a power, I hasten to add - leaves no doubt, would appear to be the only example of such camouflage, for the Banishing NEVER DISSIMULATED ANYTHING on its drawings of the Krematorium. The only device used by the Bauleitung was to avoid indicating the true function of some rooms (for example, the case, which is in fact somewhat dubious, of drawing No 2036 of Krematorium IV, of Soviet sources). The only camouflage was by omission. Workers employed by outside civilian contractors were in no way misled, which explains their enormous incriminating «tips».

It might be claimed that the six «Gemüsehallen» were indeed stores for market garden products generously sent by the WVHA (SS Economic Administration Head Office) in order to supplement the rations of the Auschwitz prisoners employed in various factories and mines that had sprung up in the area. Three factors render this affirmation null and void. In June 1944, the Reich was already too weak and drained to be able to divert for the benefit of prisoners sufficient quantities of fresh vegetables as to regularly fill SIX stores of 930m². These Birkenau halls were no Covent Garden. What do the two Krematoria at the end of the platform symbolize? It would have been better, if the SS had been trying to prove their humanitarian aims, not to show them on the drawing. The silhouettes of the three lorries ON THE OTHER SIDE of the hall and for which a road had to be built, call for no special comment, in view of the contemporary photographs that show them on the camp roads loaded with personal effects and heading for the two «Kanadas».

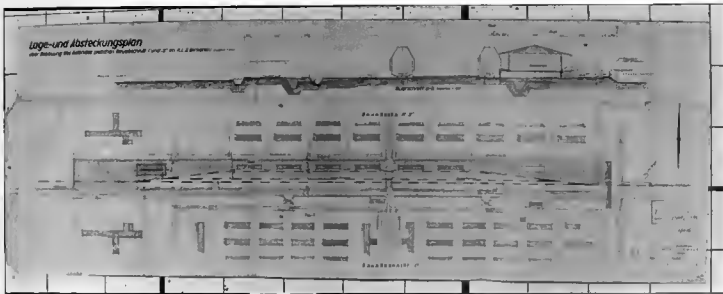
Two documents in file BW 30/32, conserved by the PMO, are connected with drawing 4054. The Bauleitung contracted out the design and building of the roof of the «Abfertigungshalle/clearance hall» to the civilian firm Konrad Segnitz of Bielefeld. With a covering letter of 8th June 1944 (document 4), Segnitz sent the Bauleitung the drawing of the roof frame (document 3) and the list of timber and other materials required. Taking account of the delays in transmission, the construction of this hall-warehouse must have been decided in the first half of May, just before the «resettlement» of the Hungarian Jews. Although chronologically associated with this «Action», the title given to this building by Messrs Segnitz, «ABFERTIGUNGSHALLE FÜR TRANSPORTKLEINWAREN für Ferntransport», is vague. Who or what is supposed to depart from this hall. Hungarians fit for work leaving for the Reich or effects taken from those declared unfit for work and destined to be gassed? Only a member of the Bauleitung confronted with these drawings could tell us, but this is no longer possible. The fact remains that, despite its uncertain function, this building, even in the design stage, is linked with the Hungarian action through its presence on drawing 4054 and the use of the word «Transport».

The drawing of this «station» raises the question of what its future was to be. Looking at these projects, Polish historians reply that after the Jews it would have been the turn of other peoples considered to be racially «inferior». The gassing of humans is a plague that developed and reached its height at Auschwitz, even though it did not originate there. This plague infected other camps before or at the same time, but never reached the same violence as at Auschwitz-Birkenau. At the time of the withdrawal in January 1945, it affected the refuge camps, where centres were set up and tests were carried out by former Birkenau «technicians».

Whether the Third Reich had emerged victor or defeated from the Second World War, this vile epidemic was in decline by 1945. The Gaussian curve can apply to many different types of event or phenomenon and depict them satisfactorily. The bomb had gone too far by May-June 1944. The highest point on the curve had been reached. Escaped prisoners had testified and, above all, made their stories public. Publicity is incompatible with an essentially secret practice. Hitler was aware of this and on 26th November 1944 he ordered the gassings to cease. Whatever the situation had been at the end of the war, the «Mills of Auschwitz» would never have been able to continue turning. There are limits to everything, and even the darkest periods come to an end. Unlike the Poles, I do not believe that the Krematoria and their gas chambers would have gone on working very long. These complexes were destined to be dismantled.

I shall end by quoting Victor Méne, the author of the celebrated novel about the next war [that of 39-45], «*La Der des Der*» [The war to end all wars], written in 1930. Although this convinced pacifist was completely wrong about the use of gas in 39-45, and overestimated the role of bombers in the early years of the war, on page 39 of a pamphlet published in 1932 by Editions Sirena, «*La guerre qui revient: FRANCHÉ and GAZÉUSE*», he gives a quotation from General von Altnich, who had written in a «Militär Wochenblatt» [Military Weekly]: «**THE NEXT WAR WILL BE MUCH MORE A MASS EXTERMINATION OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION THAN A FIGHT BETWEEN TWO ARMIES**». Méne claims on page 178 that: «*The next war, the war on civilians, is upon us. A vile butchery. The Massacre of the Innocents.*»

These extracts have a prescient note, of which Victor Méne could have justly been proud after the war, while at the same time being thoroughly disgusted by the human race. Two common gasses, he would never have dared think of, carbon monoxide produced by internal combustion engines, and hydrocyanic acid used to combat lice, had killed at least a million people. He could not foresee that most of the victims would be Jews.



Document 1

Drawing 4054

drawn by prisoner 471

and checked by Jakob CT on 21/6/44, counter-signed by Jathaus

Lage- und Absteckungsplan über Richtung des Geländes zwischen Bauschnitt 1 und 2 im KL II Birkenau

Maßstab 1:1000

Location and development plan for the land between construction stages 1 and 2 in KL II Birkenau

Scale 1:1000

Translation of inscriptions.
(from left to right and top to bottom)

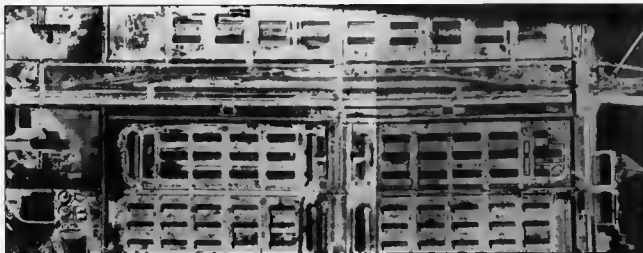
Querschnitt a-b. Maßstab 1:100/section a-b
scale 1:100

- Bauschnitt 1/construction stage 1
- Graben/ditch
- Breite d. weichen Straße 6m/width of existing road - 6m
- Hauptstraße/main road
- Gleis/track
- Rampe/platform
- GEMÜSEHALLE/vegetable hall (numbered 1 to 6 on plan drawing)
- rum Aufschichten bei raben/ jetties/ Terraces/pigeon ground
- prop. Straßenplaned road
- Rabatten/burden
- Sicherungsdraht/protective wire
- Betonpfahl, klein Durchmesser/ concrete post, elevated barbed wire
- Bauschnitt 2/construction stage 2

Location plan scale 1:1000

- Krongruben/King's ditch (name of a map)
- Kieselplatz/gravel square
- Abfertigungshalle/cleanance hall
- Graben/ditch

- FLT (Friedrichshafen) (resisting) (resisting) Zaun/enclosure
- Kesselfläche/gravelled area
- Rampe 10m (to 2m) breadth/platform 10m (or 2 m) wide
- Bauschnitt 2/construction stage 2
- Straße/road
- Bauschnitt 1/construction stage 1
- Hauptstraße/main road
- Netztrommaggregat/electricity substation
- Rampe/platform
- Eingangsbauwerk/entrance building
- Turm/tower
- Trafostation/transformer station
- nach Birkenau/towards Birkenau
- nach Auschwitz/towards Auschwitz
- von Harnensee/Harnensee
- Anschlussstelle zur Reichsbahn/Reich railway siding



Document 2

Friedrichshafen (aerial photograph taken by the Americans on 25th August 1944, from 'Le Monde' July - No 97, January-March 1967, photo 4)

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Assumptions II and III

Abschrift !

Konrad Segnitz, Baugeschäft

Beuthen O/S, den 8.6.44.
Lindenstr.38

7

Betrifft: Abfertigungshalle für Transporte im KGL, Auschwitz.

An die Zentralbauleitung der Wehrmacht u. Polizei
An der Spritzenstraße 2, Beuthen O/S
Ihre Zeichnung vom 2.6.44. ist mir zugegangen.
Ich bitte Sie, mir die Zeichnung zu übersenden, damit ich sie in meine Zeichnung einzeichnen kann.
Mit freundlichen Grüßen
Konrad Segnitz

A u s c h w i t z

Auf Grund des Auftrags vom 23.5.44. bei einem Herrn Baumeister, der mir den Plan Nr. 182c für den Bau einer hohlewandigen Vollmauerkonstruktion entgegen geschickt hat, einer Durchfahrt von 3,50 m und Doppelsäulen ausgearbeitete. Angewandte Materialien werden die Lamellen wie üblich angewendet.

Ich überende Ihnen in der Anlage in 5-facher Ausfertigung Zeichnung Blatt Nr. 182c, Holzlatten Blatt Nr. 959 und 960, kontingentierte Baustoffe auf der Liste Nr. 960, ferner statische Berechnung 8 Seiten stark, einchl. der erforderlichen Kontingente und andere Skizzen.

Die erforderlichen 3.500 Vollmauerplatten werden ich Ihnen liefern zum Preise von RM. 0,42 ab Waggon hier. Die 1.800 Stk. Spreizbohlen-4,482 m werde ich ebenfalls sofort anfertigen lassen. Auch bitte ich mir die Schmiegebohrplatte sofort zusustellen. Dergleichen bitte ich um Überweisung von 16 to. Zement.

Yngve
d/w

Document 4
(FMO p. 20, 20.12 page 7)

Copy of a letter of 8th June 1944 from the building firm Konrad SEGNIETZ of 38.1 Lindenstrasse, Beuthen, Upper Silesia (specialists in roof frames and roofing, who had designed and built the roof of the main Blockhaus (barracks)) to the Auschwitz Waffen SS and Police Building.

Subject: Chimney hall for transports at KGL, Auschwitz

Translation
of the second paragraph.

I enclose 5 copies drawing No 182c, timber lists nos. 959 and 960, estimated materials on list no. 960, and 8 pages of static calculations, including these for the required estimated materials and detailed sketches.

POSTFACE by the author

His position with respect to the extermination of the Jews at Birkenau and the personal experiences that led him to undertake this study

I am not a Jew and I was at one time a «revisionist». After reading this book, some will no doubt think that I still am one. This is quite possible and I bear them no grudge. The distinction between these two fiercely opposed schools, the «exemptionsists» and the «revisionists», becomes meaningless once a certain threshold of knowledge about the former Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp has been reached. I have passed this point of no return.

Any normal human being, visiting the Auschwitz camp for the first time, feels a deep emotional shock. The weight of history allows off no other response. An ordinary but devoted tourist, I nearly did away with myself one evening in October 1979 in the main camp, the Stammlager, overwhelmed by the evidence and by despair. I have often wondered how I would have been able to perform this act of self-destruction. Since that fateful evening, I have spent a total of almost three months, spread over ten visits between 1979 and 1984, studying the German archives in the Auschwitz State Museum, examining the ruins of Birkenau, trying to understand and put into place the pieces of this gigantic and incredible puzzle. After the first few visits, I no longer saw the barbed wire fences surrounding the camp, directly visible from the windows of the first floor of Block 24 which houses the Archives. They had become invisible to me, as I was myself, melted into the town of Oswiecim, where it was impossible to identify in my Polish silhouette, hidden among so many others, the Frenchman as his tie and three piece suit who had disembarked from the «LOT» twin engined aircraft at Balice the day before.

As the years passed, I experienced the fevers that overcame the country, sweeping inside all in its path, saw the birth of hope, the first encursions under the sign of «Solidarność», patriotic songs sung by the family, almost open listening to western radio broadcasts, the explosion of red and white arm bands, strikes and sit-ins where production continued 24 hours a day, the waiting, in English but holding firm, for the armoured divisions massed to the east, but which never came. I experienced the curfew, totally deserted shops, meaningless days, coffee rationed to 100 grammes for two months and whose coupons enabled one only to obtain a bottle of vodka. I experienced the return to normal. In other words, I shared in the ordinary and difficult everyday life of a town in the south of Poland called Oswiecim, once known as Auschwitz.

I have brought back some bad habits, such as drinking tea, knocking myself out with hard liquor when things are going badly and all looks grey, sleeping meals, fiddling on the gasoline, knowing the value of the dollar, understanding the meaning of the verb «to organize». I have also fallen under the spell of the «Lady in Ermine» by Leonardo da Vinci, jewel of the Czartoryski collection. I seemed to be satisfied with little and to be patient, and finally, I came away with a great love for Poland and its people. I emerged proud, not of being a Frenchman from France, but of having a French mind and living in France. And I am now unconverted for life against any form of totalitarian system.

I became a historian of the Auschwitz Krematorium purely by accident for I am a pharmacist by profession. Looking for the origins of my interest in a past that does not appear to have much to do with my own, and in such an unenviable subject, means delving right back to my early childhood.

My family came from Ponton. My parents moved to the Paris region before the war, attracted by the capital and taking advantage of an offer made by the government. They were caught there by the war. My father, who was a captain in the reserve, fought a «splendid» campaign in the north, eliminating in Dunkirk and St. Etienne, and a Channel crossing to which he had to change boats half way across, the first having been too badly damaged to continue. After three days' well-earned rest in England, he was sent back to the continent to participate in the Battle of France, from which he emerged unscathed, just avoiding capture by the Germans.

and anticipating the Armistice by a few days. Demobilized in the free zone, he returned to his civilian functions. He was not contacted by the Resistance for the simple reason that his local chief, being a doctor and thus being entitled at that time to the military rank of warrant officer, did not want to recruit a clandestine fighter of higher rank than himself. Although a Christian, my father did not have a scare one day as the street, when a German police control found that his nose had a semantic look about it. It was not really possible for him to trace his family tree back far enough to show that the Arabs had reached Pontons before being defeated there by Charles Martel in 732. But his genes could remember this.

Born early in 1944, I was six months old when the Germans departed. My knowledge of the war was limited to my impressions as a foetus and young baby. Our family was relatively little affected by the war except, according to my parents, for some disagreeable periods as from 1944, when the food supply became homoeopathic and barely edible. The allied bombing forced my mother to take refuge in the cellar and her enlarged belly bounced at each step. As we were living in Villepinte, famous before the war for its sanatorium, we had to put up with the fighting between the Americans and the Germans at the Liberation. I took all this with Olympian calm, sleeping like a log in the midst of the shooting, even though it appears that some shots passed through the house. Despite the proximity of Drancy, nobody suggested to me, as a purely Catholic baby, that I should take a trip to the disquieting land of «Pichpou», unlike some other dear little angels, some of whom had a first name not unlike my own. They had his trip imposed upon them and were deported some 1700 kilometres to the east, to the void of «Pichpou»*. The hundreds of thousands of visitors to the remarkable and famous exhibition held in the Berlitz Palace from 7th September to 14th December 1941** had learned to distinguish at a glance between them and me. Visual acuity has never been the same since August 1944.

On the paternal side, all I had left was my grandmother, who lived not far from Ciry. She was a solitary peasant woman whose husband had been killed in the «race for the sea» in 1915. Then the Normandy landings came at last, and four days later, on 10th June 1944, 75 kilometres from where she lived, there was an event that has marked the region for ever, the tragedy of Oradour-sur-Glane (Pauze 1).

All the surrounding populations were greatly affected, even distant families such as ours, so strong were the bonds of kinship at that time. My earliest memories were marked by the end of the world and by this tragedy. A tank of the 2nd Armoured Division, a jeep and some soldiers made up a substantial proportion of my favourite toys, a faithful reflection of the era. I rediscovered the Liberators, with Leclerc, Juin, Tassigny and de Gaulle, as the magazines my father had bought, as soon as I was old enough to be able to leaf through them. The silhouettes of Sherman tanks and half tracks were more familiar to me than that of the Renault car. The eruption of the military universe into my existence is explained by the fact that we had moved. As from the 50s, my parents were working at *La Bossière*. Ecole. *La Bossière*, a smiling little village in the outer suburbs of Paris, received its scholastic status only long after the opening, on 4th November 1886, of «*L'Ecole Militaire Enfantine Herriot*», taking children from 5 to 13 years old to be reared by the army and «brought up in the cult of Honour and the Fatherland». The proximity - I only had to cross the road - of the military college meant that my horizon was veiled in dark blue, the colour of the college uniform. It was not until very much later that I realized this.

My grandmother came to stay with us and enjoy the company of her grandson from time to time. On Thursdays, when my parents went to Paris, she looked after me. She would read to me G. Bresson's «*Le tour de la France par deux enfants*», a classic work found in all our schools, recounting the joys and sorrows of two young children from Lorraine. An extraordinary tool

of revanchist propaganda, it served on our side as an unconscious alibi for the generations of simple peasants who massacred one another in the stupid butchery of 1914-18. It remains famous for its caption on page 188, under the heads of four men: «*THE FOUR RACES OF MAN: The white race, the most perfect of the human races...*». Grandmother's reading was just a pretext, or rather an introduction, for her own anecdotes and tales. Oradour, destroyed by the SS, could not fail to be one of them. During our visits «to see the family», it was not unusual for me to come across a pamphlet or illustrated book dealing with this massacre. The photographic montages with a dark SS shadow falling across the white ruins and the red sky made a very strong impression on a young mind. I think I visited the actual ruins of Oradour several times during this period, but I remember very little of it. When I was twenty I went back there in the height of summer. Life was everywhere, with grass and other plants reclaiming their rights. The contrast between my memories and the present and yet seemed to me to be ridiculous and irreconcilable. These thoughts within the ruined walls overgrown by vegetation no longer meant anything now that Franco-German reconciliation and friendship are the main pillars of Europe. I have never understood, and still do not understand, why the village of Oradour, except for the church, has not been rebuilt, and by the Germans. The human experience of Oradour should be engraved in itself, in its flesh and in its spirit, not symbolized by paltry ruins.

At the age of ten, completely conditioned by the military entourage of *La Bossière*, I had to take the military schools entrance examinations in order to be able to continue my schooling at the *Le Fèvre Military Academy*. I passed in spite of myself and put on the uniform of the Brisons. Despite appearances, I was never actually an army pupil - my parents paid a fee, admittedly very modest, but in return for this I was free to leave the school if I so desired, and the school administration was free to throw me out if my school results were not up to scratch. It was an excellent arrangement which, while it filled me with fear in the lower classes, appeared highly profitable at the end of my schooling, by giving me the opportunity of leaving free of all obligations towards the army apart from the normal military service. So many pupils took advantage of this possibility that the only ones left in the classes preparing for entry to the army, navy and air force officers' colleges were real «army boys» trying desperately to rise above the mediocre career of non-commissioned officer imposed on «payants» for their free schooling. During the eight years I passed within these «army» walls, I only once heard a far-sighted officer deplore this state of affairs. This was in a speech before my company one day when the results were being announced. The lower classes of the academy were of no use to the military and virtually invariably turned the boys against the army. In a «*Journal des Voyages*» of 30th October 1964, I found an article in the Academy by Major Annet, in which he wrote «The fact is that the pupils are subjected to a barracks regime too early, and that sometimes turns them against the army, so that the results obtained are perhaps not always in line with the sacrifice made by the States». The situation still remained unchanged half a century later.

The transition from family to military life was difficult. A solitary and introverted boy, I was plunged into a collective and prison-like milieu. I had to resign myself to this as best I could. The intellectual and moral training I received was of great value, but was wasted to the years 1940-50 and totally inappropriate for the years to follow. My only means of escape from the austere way of life was to read and to dream. A book is freedom. In a life based on discipline and school work, the good or bad results of which directly influenced friendships, only

Translator's notes.

* Pichpou: Name given by the Jewish children interned in Drancy to the unknown place in the East where the Jews were to go (Auschwitz-Birkenau).

** Exhibition entitled «*Le Juif et la France*» [The Jew and France].

particularly important news from outside was able to reach us. In May 1958, the push by Stalin and Massin in Algiers shook the school to its foundations. In 1961, there was the generals' revolt and then the Eichmann affair. All I knew about the trial was that it was held in Jerusalem. My understanding of the genocide was very poor. I was vaguely aware of the extermination of the Jews, but the causes escaped me completely. This ignorance was reinforced by the collective life of the school, where I was in constant contact, day and night, with Vietnamese and North African comrades, the consequence of the different colonial policies of the State that was educating me. I do not understand racial discrimination. The older I grow, the more I realize that when I was in military I acquired a tolerance and understanding of the different races far superior to the crude reflexes of the vast majority of people. As I began to realize once I was returned to civilian life. For my eighteenth birthday I received a book from outside. *La mort est un métier* by Robert Merle translated into English as *Death is my trade*. I reread all the explanations I could wish about the smells of Auschwitz and the loudness of the screams. I was greatly influenced by it, and my interest in this aspect of history dates from there. I wanted to be able to understand why and how men can become so inhuman. Robert Merle, who had been a prisoner of war, did not learn about the concentration camps until his return from captivity. His curiosity was triggered by a report of ten pages or so on Rudolf Höss (photo 2) drawn up by Dr Guitbert, an American psychiatrist at the Nuremberg trial. Merle wrote to Guitbert for more details and was sent about five more unpublished pages. Realizing that this expanded report was too limited a basis for telling Höss' story, Merle turned to the *Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine* in Paris and read there the testimonies of people deported to Auschwitz. He was subsequently able to read the manuscript of the French version of Dr Miklos Nyiszli's account, very well translated into Hungarian by Tibor Kremer, before parts of it were published in *Les Temps Modernes* under the title *SS-Obersturmführer Doktor Mengele, Journal d'un médecin déporté au régime de Auschwitz* [Diary of a doctor deported to the Auschwitz extermination camp]. A synthesis of these different sources led to a historical novel - I insist on this word «novel» - written between 1949 and 1951 and published by Gallimard in 1952 under the title *La mort est un métier*. The critics were very muted because the work appeared just as West Germany was beginning to rearm. It was out of line that the book became famous. Merle admits that his relations with Kremer turned sour, because the latter reproached him for «borrowing» a lot of material from Nyiszli's text and then not giving his support to its publication. It was published in May by Julliard in 1958 under the title *Médecin à Auschwitz* [and also appeared in the US and the UK as *Auschwitz: a doctor's eyewitness account*]. As Merle had based his account on Nyiszli, his descriptions of the premises, and in particular of the Bunkers, Krematoria and the methodology of their genesis are unfortunately inaccurate. Nyiszli had so exaggerated the dimensions and capacities of the «murder weapons» that Merle, in all good faith, presented as huge cathedrals of death what were actually only big cremation installations that had been diverted from their original purpose, or at least the first three of them.

Having passed my final examinations and resolved to break with the army, I thought I would be able to go back to civilian life and earn my chemical engineering school in Paris. I was free to go and I owed nothing. But there was after all a price to pay for seven years of excellent schooling at low cost. I was imbued with the military life that I was able to hold out for only three days: in a civilian environment other than that of my family. I dropped everything and high-tailed it back to *La Flèche* to prepare for entering the Saint-Cyr Military College. I played the game for three months. Then an officer was made to resign by organizing a visit to his future home, the Cotentin dunes. I still do not know what happened within me, but on my return I was sure I would never again set foot here. The school year was thus transformed into a subaltern, mainly of disorientation. I regularly repeated to myself that this year was the last that I would spend within those walls, and my school results, which had been brilliant in the last term, were shabby by the third. I lived absolutely everything: purchasing, a trip to Germany at the school's expense, a new sketch for the end of year celebrations, everything, that is, except serious work. I tried to scuffle myself in the entrance examination for Cotentin, trembling lest I should pass, a success that would have presented me with a terrible problem of conscience. To my cowardly relief I did



Photo 2
[1940 sep. no. 383]

Sturmbannführer or SS Major Rudolf Höss, camp commandant of Auschwitz-Birkenau, between Reichsführer Himmler and Max Baumbach, secretary to chief engineer Diefel, responsible for the construction of IG Farben Works, during a visit on 17th May 1942 to part of the construction site of the huge Monowitz industrial complex, built to produce methanol and synthetic rubber. Following his two days (16th and 17th July) inspection of Auschwitz-Birkenau and Moosburg, Himmler presented Höss to Obersturmbannführer or SS Lieutenant Colonel. In *La mort est un métier* [Death is my trade], Robert Merle gave the pseudonym of «Lange» to Höss.

not pass and was able to leave slamming the door behind me. I have never been back to La Flèche.

I had finished with the military academy, but I had not finished with me. The very intense military conditioning through eight years of physical and mental imperialism had been such that it took me fifteen years to get rid of most of it. Such a training cannot be shed overnight. Marching in step and advancing the heel into the ground does not equate one for walking normally. Having worn navy blue and seen all one's comrades dressed the same does not favour subsequent vestimentary freedom. We always addressed one another by our surnames, the use of the first name being somewhat effeminate in our opinion. The day boys that we recruited had this unfortunate habit that we took upon ourselves to cure rapidly by means of appropriate sarcasms. The external marks of this sort took ten years to fade away, but there were also the internal marks, an intimate domain about which I reflected long, trying to determine whether the essential core of my personality was still subject to or was now free from what had been inculcated in me. My training as an adolescent is indecipherable and was intended to produce an officer. Despite my revolts against the system and an undeniable nihilism proper to former Brothers, I have remained for twenty years a «latent» officer, with the attitudes, modes of thought and centres of interest proper to that status. I studied and became familiar with everything concerning military questions, past, present and forecast. But this did not prevent me from being convinced that all these stockpiles of arms, ever more sophisticated and destructive, are an extraordinary waste of human effort and energy, eating away at our world like a cancer. I know how to give orders, but I have never wanted to exercise this power, considering that as I have to take orders from nobody I should not give them. It is easy to become a perfect «marine» or «paw» or «Wallen-SS». Their training and conditioning are similar, I know exactly the type of psychological behaviour and mental obliteration required. If I was tempted to join up «late» again, like many of my comrades who were candidates for Saint-Cyr, cold logic dissuaded me, for enthusiasm, even sacred, can no longer do anything against the atomic reality.

On the advice of my parents, I studied pharmacy, because it involved a large dose of chemistry and I would be able to make a good living. One has to eat after all. I qualified in 1971. After a year of military service spent at the Inter-Services Sports School at Fontainebleau, where I spent my time fitting out an analytical laboratory, shooting, scuba diving and improving my German with the soldiers of a liaison post next to the school, I had another moment of indecision, then set up on my own account.

During my pharmaceutical studies, using the earnings of my first locum jobs, and just after the appearance of *«Le Châtaignier»* by Jean-François Sinner (Editions Fayard), I decided at August 1966, accompanied by my future wife, to go to see for myself the remains of the famous «Konzentrationslager» the media were so full of. We spent seventeen days in Poland, our first direct contact with the «East». On 10th July began on the cold Baltic beaches, which the sun vainly tried to warm. We could only admire the sunsets. Then a really chore after Słupsk, and accompanied as to Leliva, Lemons for the quickbacks and incidentally for the concrete remains [photo 3] of the launching ramp of the FV-103 flying bomb, more commonly known as the V1. We settled temporarily in the Gdynia Super-Gedra cohabitation. We had rented a room with a family in Gdynia. The apartment of our host family of six, not counting the baby on the way, consisted of an entrance, kitchen, WC-bathroom, bedroom and dining room/dormitory. With the bedroom let to us, the whole family had to squeeze into the dining room to sleep. There was just one picture on the wall of our room: Mary and the infant Jesus. The mistress of the house explained in German that whenever they let this room to a member of the Party, she covered the picture with a piece of cloth. Talking to and living with this woman taught me far more about living in communist Poland than any journalist staying at a hotel «for foreigners» could have done. A country can be discovered only by living with a family. At Gdynia, we visited the Naval Museum and the «Błyskawica», a ship that took part in many naval engagements in 1939-45, now at anchor and converted into a museum. In Gdansk, formerly Danzig, we visited the traditional sites and the ruins of «Westplatte», where the Polish garrison commanded by II Sinschski suffered and continued for seven days the first German assaults of the Second World War. A trip to Malbork revealed to us the aesthetic inconsistency created by erecting modern buildings near the imposing medieval complex of Malbork, a visit to which warrants at least three hours. There is a valuable collection of amber, a fossilized vegetable resin. Through the explanations of a member of the staff we discovered the first nationalism of the Poles. One night almost alone I thought it was then my own ancestors, who led the great fortress of the Teutonic Order. Lastly, we embarked on a tour of the nappes. The first was Sułbów/Sulibów, 35 km east of Gdansk, destroyed at first for Polish civilians and designated as a «civilian internment camp». There remained only the enclosure of the «old camp» with its entrance and a row of huts [photo 4], two single-mission infirmaries [photo 5] housed in a building that was reconstructed after the war, and a small, partly rented gas chamber [photo 6]. It is not known when this gas chamber led to the deaths of prisoners' effects was installed. Its dimensions (8 metres long, 3 wide and 2.30 high, giving a volume of approximately 55 m³) are close to the standard dimensions of those erected by BOOS or DEGESCH. There are two gas-tight doors, one in the southern end and the other in the northern end. The doors do not seem to be original, since they were missing at the liberation and there has been modification of the brickwork to adjust to the curved top of the frame, as can be seen by comparison with a photograph of this chamber published on pages 106 and 109 of «1939-45. We have not forgotten», Polonia, Warsaw 1962. The agent used is not known precisely, but given the presence of the external stove (to the left of the door on photo 6), it must have been either dry heat or hydrocyanic acid [Zydon-B] used in a heated room. In this case it was not essential to pour the product in through an external opening, as an operator wearing a gas mask could distribute the pellets or porous dust on the floor, then go out and close the door. At the end of the cycle, opening the two doors allowed efficient natural ventilation. From 22nd June to the beginning of November 1944, it was used as a homicidal gas chamber for groups of about 100 people, Zydon-B being poured in through a small opening of 15 cm diameter in the roof, a system apparently introduced on the advice of SS Lieutenant Colonel Rudolf Höss, former commandant of Auschwitz-Birkenau and at that time head of Department D1 of the WVHA-SS (SS Economic Administration Head Office). Within the history of this gas

chamber is known from testimonies reported by Fabrice Krysztal. Dariusz Wasowski, there has been no scientific examination of the chamber structure since 1945, which means that we do not know how the chamber functioned as a dehumanizing installation and are unable to provide material proof of its criminal role. The number of victims is estimated at one or two thousand.

The visit did not greatly impress us. We were young and in love, and our car, a Renault 4L, was in a hurry to get to Goryki, formerly Łazienki, on the shores of Lake Niegosin in Mazovia. Our canoe expeditions, which led us to deserted islands surrounded by protective reeds, have left indelible memories. Love is an agreeable pastime for two students of opposite sex but it is not very exciting for the intellect. In order to meet this latter need we welcomed one day to visiting, near the village of Gostków, the Rastenburg Führer Headquarters known as «Wilfschutzhagen» or «Wolf's Lair». Hitler's advance command post for the Germans in Russia. These colossal bunkers are now the declassified ruins [Photo?] of totalitarian pride, but though they are choked by trees and other vegetation, they still exude a disquieting power, and are still dangerous because the area is full of mines, only a small proportion of which have been neutralized. One of the concrete roads leads to a clearing where Hitler enjoyed presentations of different prototype tanks, such as the «snurmes», a tank of 189 tonnes, proudly carrying at 20 km/h one 150 mm gun and one 75 mm. The Kockschumier combined the mentality of a mole with a taste for heavy objects. The bunker walls, of staggering thickness, had been filled with explosives, so that in January 1945 the Germans set off an enormous explosion that destroyed the bunker's life and caused many of the lower levels to be flooded by the waters of the surrounding lakes.

After an self-indulgent idleness on the shores of the lakes, spoiled by atrocious food, we headed south towards the second camp, Treblinka, the one that had inspired our trip in Poland. It was difficult to find, the rare signs being silent as to its location. At Stoschów I had bought a guide to the «Places of struggle and martyrdoms». Reckoning that we must be very close, I saw an isolated house and, armed with my guide book and a photograph, went to ask where the former extermination camp was located. It was told they did not know. Disappointed, I continued along the road and a few hundred metres further saw a screen of trees, saw the mushroom-like Treblinka II monument-museum [Photo], surrounded by a symbolic cemetery of, apparently, 17000 standing stones. These Polish artists who collaborated on the attention must have been inspired by unconscious cynical humour. Their bedtime reading apparently did not include the book of the «Stürmer» (Hilarius Streicher) anti-semitic journal, addressed to young and old entitled «Der Götterpöbel» in which the Jews are assimilated to poisonous mushrooms. At the entrance to the camp the former railway was represented by cement sleepers that suddenly stopped. Not a soul to be seen. Completely deserted. If I had become aware of Polish antiquaries at Malbork, I began to see at Treblinka an attitude towards the Jews that I had not previously suspected.

There was NOTHING left of the former camp. There were absolutely no facilities whatever for visitors, no entrance, no guard, no guide, not even a cheap postcard, posters, books or pamphlets in memory of the 800,000 (official figures) Jewish victims who had gone up in smoke. This abundance of «Nie ma» did not keep us long and we reached Warsaw at dusk. In the middle of August, the capital was dead after 9 o'clock. The night life that we were seeking outside the hotel



Photo 3
(Photo by the author)

In the region of Łęka, a concrete guard post near the beach belonging to a former V1 flying bomb launching site.

was actually IN the hotel and we had not even noticed it. How sad it must have been to be young in Warsaw in August 1944, in a city only half rebuilt and dominated by the towering 234 metres of the Palace of Culture and Science dominated by Stalin, «the little father of the people». Such was our impression as French students discovering «héroisme» «Warsaw». We could not imagine what Warsaw must have been like after its Liberation on 17th January 1945. Trying to imagine TWO THOUSAND Ossolowskis all merged into one is beyond the powers of a Frenchman. Visually materializing this tragic annihilation would have meant going through all the streets of Oldtown 2000 times the winner of 1944. Only an album published in 1985 by the State Scientific Publishing House gives a glimpse of «WARSZAWA 1945». These photographs of a city devastated, sacked, pillaged, dynamited and burned, taken under conditions no different than there was even a lack of water for developing the films, represent the despairing observation of their author, Leonard Sempolnicki.

We wanted to visit the National Museum with its paintings and collections of ancient art, but it was closed. I pleaded and stressed our

student status all in vain - all I got was a «Nie» after having stated, in response to a direct question, that we were students of pharmacy. We turned instead to the Polish Army Museum next door. Its façade was lined with a row of guns of different calibre, whose barrels were by pure chance pointing towards the east. In the museum we saw in particular the famous armour of the 17th century Polish Hussars. In view of my special tastes I was particularly interested in the open-air exhibition of aircraft, tanks and artillery. But we did not visit many of the places of interest for Warsaw was only a stopover on our way to Cracow.

In Cracow we stayed in the French («Francuski») Hotel, near to the Barbican and the Florianska Tower that dominates the street of the same name. For a whole day our activities were limited to wandering around the centre, taking in the main square (Rynek Główny) and the stands of the cloth market (Sukiennice), following the traditional path of tourists in Cracow. Incapable of staying in one place, we left the next day for the salt mines of Wieliczka and, the day after that, Oswiecim.

Synagogues being rare in Poland, and often located in the least visible places, reaching Auschwitz turned into an exhausting and hazardous pathfinding exercise. Finally I was arrived at our destination, we had a whole afternoon to visit the most «important» KZ of all. We raced through the main camp, of «Stammlager» [Photo 9], and all that remains in my memory is the vision of thousands of identity photographs of prisoners along the walls of certain blocks and of searches searching among them for members of their families. As for the «Endlager» crematorium or Krematorium I, it was conspicuously by its absence from the itinerary. There were mass showers in the main camp not real crowds but there were plenty of people. Then came the turn of Birkenau, site of the mass extermination of the Jews. Here, WE WERE ALONE. The guard who lived in the entrance building spoke perfect French. He told us what we ought to see, and informed us that in Block III (the third construction stage at Birkenau), the SS had planned to build an electric crematorium, where people would have been electrocuted in series and incinerated by electricity too. I took what he said for gospel, not knowing at the time that the poor man was only repeating the claims made by the Soviet journalist Boris Polev in «Pravda» in February 1945, announcing that mass murders were committed using an «electric production line where hundreds of people were killed simultaneously by an electric current, the bodies fell onto a slowly moving conveyor driven by a chain and advanced towards a kind of blast-furnace». Thirty years later, the legend still persisted, but had become a project, not an accomplished fact. In return we had scarcely begun to explore the women's camp with its brick barracks, when a storm that had begun to threaten suddenly burst with exceptional violence. The sight of the multitude of long dark wooden beds, crammed between barred wire barriers and overlooked by black watchtowers in the midst of this violence of the elements gave us the impression of having gone back in time in the period just after the SS had evacuated the camp. The storm quickly abated and we continued towards the Krematorium. The final monument-museum as it exists today was under construction and was completed by General de Gaulle's arrival in Poland. We proved before the ruins of Krematorium II with scarcely a glance. How could we imagine, without any explanations or drawings or photographs, what had gone on in these buildings whose internal layout we did not know. When we came in the second sewage treatment plant [Photo 10], we were overcome by a ridiculous sense of horror when we read a sign [Photo 11] stating that the Germans had tried in produce a schvitz from human excrement. This was in fact entire as I was later to establish in the Museum Archives, for «Kilnringling III» [Photo 12] had no such thing as a digester where the anaerobic fermentation of the slurry would have formed a gas rich in methane that could have been used in an associated gasometer. Our own publication plans have used and still use this technique without anyone finding it repugnant or atrocious. Further on, the only building still intact in the area of Krematorium IV and V was the «Zemlak Saurau». I entered through a half open window at the back and went through the building without understanding its function, wondering what on earth such an installation could be used for. Finally, we looked for the two «furnaces» Krematoriums, numbers IV and V. We looked in vain, finding only the remains of the concrete floors of floors. That is all that remains of Krematorium IV and V, but I did not find that out until 1980. Many visitors must have had the same experience as us at Birkenau finding it impossible to imagine the atrocities carried out there over a period of four years because of the lack of valid explanations.

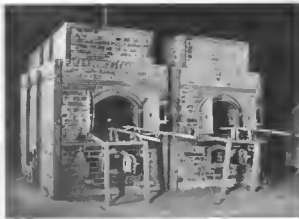
Photo 4
(Personal archive)

Entrance to the STUTTGART concentration camp, or rather the road to the camp. At the end of the path, a building with a chimney, a building reconstructed after the war.



Photo 5
(Personal archive)

The two single shaft incineration furnaces of the STUTTGART concentration camp, built about 1943 at the Liberation, together with the metal structures for charging the cranes, a technique developed on the basis of experience in the German concentration camps.



We passed the Polish Catech border in Ciechanów, before heading for Warsaw and returning to the western world that we were beginning to miss terribly. We had a note in several rows between by the time we left Poland.

We discovered Polish anti-Semitism through seeing the total indifference recorded in the places where the extermination of the Jews had taken place.

We deduced that there was nothing surprising about the massacre having taken place in Poland, given the ambient atmosphere.

more generally, we had come to the conclusion that in the East, everything was GRAY.

Although I had realized that a half-day visit was not enough to cover the whole of the Auschwitz-Birkenau complex and that two or three days were really needed, I was one of the very few young French people to have actually visited the site and to have acquired some slight knowledge of the place, something that many western historians singularly lacked. Nevertheless, my knowledge was inadequate and in 1978-79 my topographical ignorance was to prove a handicap. One cannot go on enjoying the irresponsibility of youth for ever. As a newly qualified pharmacist I had to make a niche for my self and I had other things to worry about than concentration camps. I continued to read a great deal, mainly contemporary history and science fiction, but about the age of thirty I began to think that I had taken in enough - receiving and understanding the thoughts of others is a painless and necessary pastime, but in the final analysis it becomes a prison. It was time for me to give something in my turn to build something out of the knowledge I had acquired.

The synthesis of my reading and my interests was to be found in parallel history and/or political fiction. I considered the models of the



Photo 6 (Photo of Polish origin taken from a book by R. Dumas, Warsaw, 1943)

The retained gas chamber at STUTTGART. View of the southern end and western side. In the foreground is the heating stove, with its chimney emerging from the roof at the far end. This chamber originally used for delousing officers, was later used as a homicidal gas chamber. This model is an extreme example of the evolution created over a period of thirty years and owes to the difficulty of distinguishing between, or the deliberate refusal to distinguish between, declassification and homicidal gas chambers.

genre to be «Ce n'est pas pour cette année» by C. M. Kumbuthi (in Satellite, special issue 40 bis of January 1962) dealing with the invasion of the United States by the Soviet Union with all its consequences, and the film «L'Angleterre occupée» showing the misadventures of a young nurse who joins a British resistance movement and discovers the «final solution» at the beginning of the recaptured of Britain by the Germans. Made on a ridiculously low budget, a 10 million old franc, the few tens of thousands of dollars this film achieved the distinction of being a commercial failure and a total success in terms of the authenticity of the setting, the uniforms, the military equipment which corresponded exactly with the year of its introduction, and the presentation of a small gas chamber in an establishment where euthanasia was practiced humanely but on a large scale - a «house» where two methods of killing coexisted: lethal injections and gas. I defy anybody to distinguish between extracts from this film and actual sequences taken during the second world war.

After much hesitation I came to my decision. I would describe a universe revolving from a German vicinity in 1943 or 1946. I must claim that this was an original idea, but I wanted to see where it would lead. In this politico-military scenario of a different future, I renewed the framework for my characters with each chapter, as had white death with a particular question or a specific period, unlike many novels who set the scene once and for all at the beginning of the book.

I eventually came to a point where the logical continuation of my novel was via Presenau and the Muzuran Lake literary exploitation of my holidays in Poland, then the Balkans, in Croatia and Serbia. I wanted to go to Zagreb, but in 1979 I was unable to manage it, despite two attempts, so I decided to turn instead to a chapter for which I already had documentation and personal impressions, that of Auschwitz-Birkenau.



Photo 7 (Photo by the author August 1944)

Hilfer's bunker at the 46. Ravensburg Headquarters. The sign reads: "Former war quarters of Hitler The Wolf's lair."



Photo 9 (Personal archives)

XI. Auschwitz. Entrance to the main camp, where the majority of prisoners were Polish, with a slogan "Work brings freedom."



Photo 8
(Photo by the author)

The main entrance to the Treblinka II extermination camp



Photo 10 (Photo by the author)

View of the southern part of the Klarnings sewage treatment station II from the path curving from Krasnowy II and III and leading, on the right to the Zentrall, Krasnowy II and Krasnowy IV and V, and straight on to Block 2. In the middle ground: from right to left, biological purification basins I, II and III, which were never finished and remain as they were. The main tower on the left was built after the sewage treatment plant.



Photo 11 (Photo by the author)
The stone on the north wall of the watchtower on photo 10 and concerning sewage treatment plant II

Photo 12a (PHO neg. no. 20905449)

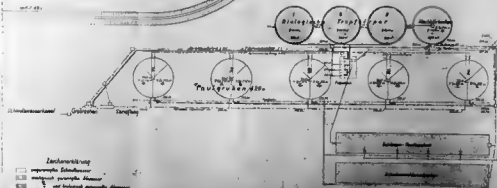
From right to left, purification tanks II, III and IV of Klarnings B. Planned for the decomposition of organic compounds in solution by aeration through streamlining duty water through a rotary distributor on to a bacterial bed of graded stones (5 to 10 cm diameter), these tanks never came into service and were left as they appear on this photograph of winter 1942-43. Even if they had been completed, it would still have been several months before the bacterial bed developed. Of the eleven workers on the photograph, only two are wearing the prisoners' striped coats. The others are inmate civilian workers.

Lageplan

Maßstab 1:500

Position du photorapport
pour la plan n° 34.

Position du photorapport
pour la plan n° 35.



Zusammenfassung

- 1. Biologische
- 2. Tropf
- 3. Sandfang
- 4. Faulgrube
- 5. Rohwasser
- 6. Verdünnung
- 7. Fällflockung
- 8. Schlamm
- 9. Sandfang
- 10. Faulgrube
- 11. Rohwasser
- 12. Verdünnung
- 13. Fällflockung
- 14. Schlamm

Drawing 12. (PMO reg. no. 2094/48)

Building drawing 1855

Site plan of sewage treatment plant II of the Aachen POW camp, construction stage II, worksheet 18, scale 1:500.

Drawn by prisoner 68297 and checked on 24/7/42.

Approved by Bruchhoff, head of the SS Bauabteilung on 25/7/42.

Checked by the civilian firm Schmidt & Co. (Schmidt & Co. GmbH) (South German Waste Water Purification Co. Ltd) of Ulm on 10/1/42.

The positions of the photographs for photos 10 and 12 are indicated on the drawing (14 and 16).

TRANSLATION OF INSCRIPTIONS

Zusammenfassung/Key

ungetrübtes Schmutzwasser/unstrained dirty water
mechanisch gereinigtes Abwasser/mechanically
purified waste water
mechanisch und biologisch gereinigtes Abwasser/
mechanically and biologically purified waste water
Fäulschlamm/Sludge

- Zust. des KGL/POW camp enclosure
- Verl. KGL/POW camp drainage channel
- Schmutzwasserkanal/dirty water channel
- Grob(b)rechen/primary screening
- Sandfang/sand trap
- Faulgrube/decomposition basin
- Rohwasser angründung/unstrained dirty water
- Verdünnung/dilution channel
- Grobes Abwasserklärbecken A
- Engründung/dilution/dilution channel
- Schlammleitung/sludge channel
- Feldbahn/narrow gauge railway
- Biolog. Tropfkorper/biological purification basin
[with rotary spray]
- Nachklärbecken/secondary clarification basin
- Fällflockung/flocculation basin
- Fällflockung/flocculation basin
- Verteilbehälter für Verdünnung/dilution distribution
wall
- Schlamm-Faulbecken/sludge digestion basin
[open-air]
- Schwimmeschlammbecken/floating sludge basin
mechanisch, grobes Abwasser/mechanically purified
waste water
- Hochwasserdruckleitung/high water pressure conduit
- gereinigtes Abwasser/purified waste water
- Schlammleitung am Trockenplatz/sludge channel to
drying bed
- Hochwassererschützchen/high water protection dam
- Königsgraben/King's ditch [main drainage ditch]
- Zur Weichhöhe die Veste

Drawing 1855 is not the final plan for Kläranlage II, but does show the actual location of the main components of the station. The final decantation basin was to be transferred to the south of the station and replaced by a fourth biological purification basin. These 4 basins were never completed and remained as they are to be seen today (photographs in the Bauernung Album PMO reg. nos. 2095/449 [main plan], 450 and 452). The primary screening was modified and strengthened. The floating sludge basin was never dug. The purification station was coupled with 4 -provisional- earth decantation or sedimentation basins to the west of the station (where the Ulm company's camp is on the drawing). Only the decomposition basin were ever brought into operation.

[The following account is based on notes written in May 1980 and annotated during the first half of 1981, adapted by removing certain outrageous remarks and irrelevant parts and supplemented as required for this postface]

I started on the action in Birkenau. A great deal of work and reflection. Chapter well under way, almost finished. My only possibility as regards parallel history was to increase the magnitude of the massacre, the Germans being victorious, and find another extermination mechanism. Resolved [I] and taken over and improved the claims of the civilian guard [I had met at the entrance to Birkenau, which as I have said were only its beginnings of the Soviet journalist Boris Polevov in Pravia in February 1945]. And then... and then I began to have doubts. My trip dated from thirteen years back. The atmosphere I had felt turned out to be excellent, but the paucity of the historical material available [I] and the fact that it ranged from the inconsistent to the vague, and even contradicted itself, led me suddenly to doubt the very existence of the Krematorium (and not the gas chambers!). A regrettable lack of detailed information about this subject, which had meanwhile come back into the news with the broadcasting of the mediotriple film *Holocaust*..., was blocking my progress. Obsessed by that question, my back to the wall, I decided to make a flying visit of five days to Poland at the end of October 1979 to remove that barrier that was preventing me from writing, from finishing.

I arrived at Auschwitz at 10 a.m. My memories were of on ice to me. Everything had to be rediscovered. By 11 o'clock I had made my inquiries and presented myself at the Museum Archives. To work. Straightaway I ran into a sizeable barn. «Take your own photographs? Prohibited...», they told me at the outset. «The museum will photograph the documents you want and send the prints on to you.» Disappointed, with the camera and all those films ready and waiting in my bag [I should have made inquiries beforehand. This is the rule in many museums in the West as well as in the East. What had misled me was that I had been allowed to photograph - the formalities being reduced to the minimum - twenty or so posters dating from 1940-44 in the Vincennes War Museum]. To bid. The main thing was to get down to work. I would worry about the rest later.

I had no idea what the Auschwitz State Museum (PANSTWOWE MUZEUM OŚWIECIM or PMO) might contain. I wanted to have a clear understanding of the layout of buildings and the fittings in the premises where the extermination was carried out. Having the impression, from what I read, that the Polish resistance had succeeded in providing a great deal of information, I asked to see the photographs. They were pointed out to me on a table. THREE PHOTOGRAPHS. Just these! I had expected at very least as many as fifteen. But no, three of undoubted authenticity, two of them taken through a door showing men dragging corpses before a pill of cremation, and the third showing naked women apparently running in a forest [at the end of 1993, the archives lost me the originals, a great concession, so that I could find the position of the clandestine photographer in the ruins of Krematorium V. The first two were taken from the north as chamber of Kr V on a southeast/northwest line, looking towards a cremation pit dug between the northern barbed wire fence and the Krematorium. The third was taken outdoors, with the photographer about twenty metres from the east wall of the Krematorium, holding the camera in his hand

with his arm by his side, shooting blind on a northeast/southwest line in the direction of the naked women moving from west to east along the south wall of the crematorium, paradoxically with their backs to it. This was a considerable embarrassment to me. Going all that way to study three photographs was absolute madness.

They reassured me and brought some other photographs, of German origin this time [subsequently published in the *Album d'Auschwitz*]. At least some certain facts began to emerge. The Krematoriums were clearly visible. I went back thirty-five years and immersed myself in the atmosphere of the time. Having looked through these albums, three others were given to me. In fact there were still from the Soviet film *Chronicles of the Liberation of the Camp, 1945*... shown over and over again in the cinema at the entrance to the Museum, and a faithful reflection of it as I realized afterwards. Among the stills was a situation derived from an enlargement of Krematorium II and III [Photo 13] and a detailed drawing of one of them [Baudouin drawing 932 of the basement of Krematorium III]. At 1 p.m. I had to pick up the Archives closed for the day. Then off to Birkenau, a distance of about two kilometres. A survey of the site, camera round my neck ready to shoot anything in this place of criminal fate. But the shooting was limited to two rounds, sorry, photos. What weather! In France I had thought we were still in late summer, but here it was raining. What the camera could not record, my eyes could still see. I visited everything, on foot. A fine back soaking rain was falling. At the second sewage treatment station I felt the same stupid aversion to human years earlier on reminding the notice on the watchtower. Arriving at the «Zentral Sauna», a guard almost slammed the door in my face as he entered. But I hammered on the door in vain, no response. I was beginning to feel cold. I went on to Krematorium V, which I had great difficulty in finding as it was overgrown with tall weeds. It gave the impression of a miserable little hut like so many others. A concrete floor enclosed by walls 50 to 100 cm high. I finished up at the lake of other [lake, marked on the drawings of Birkenau as a fire-fighting reservoir, is east of Krematorium IV, not beyond V as I am here. I and backtracked]. A completely overcast night. The cables had long since been absorbed into the bank. Return through an unending darkness. Half way back I took shelter in a watchtower for a while, I was wet. Everything inside was damaged, but could still see that the workmanship was very good. The work of a master. Beams and planking dovetailed, and the wood treated, hence the black colour. The interior was insulated with glass wool, still visible here and there. A barbaric construction, but then concentration camp labour was to cheap.

I ran back to the car with my teeth chattering and got back to the main camp as fast as I could. I continued by visiting Auschwitz I. Visually alone. My footsteps echoed on the concrete floors of the blocks. The electric lighting was sparse. A thick mist was rising. By five o'clock it was dark. A real nightmare atmosphere. Later, alone in my cell, I was seized with panic. This visible, palpable confirmation and been a profound shock. Krematoriums there were, five in fact, numbered one to five in roman numerals. Kr I a converted powder magazine (or dry goods store). II and III, mirror image twins, visible on contemporary photographs and confirmed by their ruins. The same with IV and V, except that the rooms of IV were reduced to a heap of stones of one or two cubic metres [I was mistaken here, as the words had hidden from me the walls barely 20 cm high made of the ruins of Krematorium IV. All I had seen was a pile of unused bricks, a vestige

of the partial reconstruction after the war]. The ambient conditions were extremely depressing. A drastic change in temperature, 12 degrees in Paris, 2 in Warsaw, below freezing in Cracow. Auschwitz with its hughenous landscape of barbed wire made worse by a thick fog, dark, dissolving, miserable, cut through by a cold, penetrating rain, and on top of all this my cold room, the radiator scarcely lukewarm. I was chilled to the bone. The idea of death came to me, increasingly growing stronger as the evening went on. I began to understand these who had chosen the electrified barbed wire.

The next morning, the crisis of that night was gone. I had a shock as I looked towards the window. There was a light coating of white on the frame. It had snowed during the night. Back to the Archives. There just resumed one simple question of detail: how did these installations work? Feeling I knew just about everything there was to know on the subject, I enthusiastically asked for the place of the Krematoriums to confirm what I learned from my reading [based virtually exclusively on the information provided by Robert Merle in *La mort est un métier*], which was in turn based on the account by Dr Miklos Nyiszli. I started directly with the men one, Krematorium II. The fact is that I was given no choice, as this is the one that was brought me.

[A psychological and methodological error on the part of the architect, who produced the drawings one at a time, in chronological order. But since a western researcher, usually, the one only for a brief stay, has not known how many drawings exist and has little time, has ever arriving at the final drawings becomes uncertain, if not impossible. This «presentation» may explain certain «reservations» about the gasings at Auschwitz. The projects are only projects. The architect should have started with the final inventory drawings. My doubts stemmed from there.]

The first one I saw was Baudouin drawing 932 of 23/1/42, «Entwurf für das Krematorium Grundriss vom Untergeschoss/Project for the Krematorium. Plan of basements». Unobscuring my magnifying glass [indeed necessary by the writing used, I bent over it. And my doubts returned with a vengeance. The premises seemed too small, in particular the junction between Leschenkeller 1 (corridor cellar, 1, later gas chamber) and Leschenkeller 2 (corridor cellar 2, later dressing room). This passage was encountered by a ramp in the form of a chute in the middle of a stairway coming down from the outside [the «Rutschschleife» chute is visible [photo 14] in the ruins of Krematorium III. In the case of III, it is present in the drawing [photo 15]. It has disappeared in drawing 2003, but this is contradicted by an order on the DAW metalworking shop for a palisade to hide it. Shilling the rubbish that has accumulated over the place where it should be would resolve the question once and for all]. So, was it really possible for 2000 people to pass rapidly from the dressing room (Leschenkeller 2) to the gas chamber (Leschenkeller 1), undergo the appropriate «treatment», emerge dead, evacuated by the Sonderkommando, be placed on gas goods lift of modest size.

[In «Auschwitz» A doctor's eyewitness accounts, Dr Miklos Nyiszli, after having lived for six months in Krematorium I and claims that his account is «without the slightest exaggeration», says that there were «four good-sized elevators» (page 49). The reason why this «authentic» witness should have accumulated so many gross exaggerations is not yet known.]

to be carried up to the flower room and burned very rapidly to achieve the enormous throughput [5000 cremations a day] aimed to in this installation? A death route that may be considered «industrially» linear, but in which the corpses have to pass back over the path of the living. Leschenkeller I is a technical cul-de-sac. And then the site of the Sonderkommando, who need room to move, also has to be taken into account. Fortunately, the doors were large. Double doors about 2 metres wide. What? DOUBLE DOORS? A ZYCLON-B GAS CHAMBER WITH DOUBLE DOORS? I do not know whether I was technically justified, but I was greatly shocked by this detail, and my surprised reaction was noticed. The young woman who was watching me study the drawing, shiveringly squeezed against a radiator no warmer than in my hotel, was off to find the architect [Tadeusz Iwaszko] who was looking after her. He said nothing, but disappeared briefly and brought back another drawing. On drawing 934 of 27/1/42, entitled «Entwurf für das Krematorium Schnitt/Project for the Krematorium. Sections», the sixteen metre crematorium chimney with the forced-draft flue at its base, loomed very large. Then came the cross-sections of Leschenkeller I and 2, nothing special about 2, but L-K 1 was fitted with a splendid ventilation system, with upper and lower ducts, «Belüftung, Entlüftung/Ventilation». An extraction «Why air extraction if not to remove air polluted by phosgene gas given off by Zyclon-B crystals?» demanded the architect. I wondered about this argument. It was obvious, my expression of discomfort must have touched Iwaszko, for from that moment on he brought up the big guns and showed me everything tabulated. Aerial views of Birkenau. Magnificently drawn plans for the expansion of the main camp. A pity for anyone interested in architectural drawing. Fine work and in colour. These SS certainly saw «doctors». For the greater glory of the thousand year Reich there was an official architecture, rigid and majestic, and a private architecture, intimated and delicate. And on the side they built death factories to burn all the «labouring and hard-working» «Slav populations» Iwaszko's leitmotif was: «Why such big installations for such a small camp?» But unfortunately, on the drawings of these «big cremation installations» there was nothing to indicate the presence of gas chambers. This lack could not engender doubt. Against this disturbing doubt belief. This is what the architect said to me in so many words.

[In France before 1980, there was a complete absence of concrete proof of the apparent «mass of «doctors» on the gasings. The history of these gasings was based virtually exclusively on human testimony, and Fauriol lost no time in pulling some of these testimonies to pieces. This situation enabled him to score some fine successes at the beginning of his «affairs», because the traditional historians had almost no evidence with which to oppose him. Fauriol's mistake was to underestimate the importance of the Auschwitz Museum Archives, which contained many documents not yet studied because nobody had felt the need to do so.]

Unthinkable. The global, supreme explanation of the extermination of the Jews cannot be reduced to the acceptance or refusal to believe what happened in Birkenau (over 210 m² of Polish soil, the area of the Leschenkeller I of Krematorium I and III). Other project drawings of Krematorium II were brought to me one at a time, parsimoniously. Each time I gave back a drawing I was handed another and left to find it, with the young woman behind me. But my concentration was no longer so great and what I saw merely confirmed what the archives had said.

But I still wanted to see everything. The plan of Krematorium IV (drawing 2036 of 11/7/43, correction sheet to 1678) arrived before me. Again I felt slight doubts about the logical sequence of operation [justified doubts, for Krematorium IV and V underwent so many modifications that their functioning became an «industrial» farce]. I called Iwaszko, who reassured me. Rapidly. And being too much of a neophyte to stand up to a «specialist» [for that is what he was in my eyes], I accepted his explanation. Meekly enough, but still with inner reservations about the destructive capacity of the floor installations.

[Which is perfectly acceptable as far as the curator of the Museum, Kasimierz Smolen is concerned, or so he told me later, provided, of course, that proof can be produced. On the other hand, the existence of the gas chambers cannot be called into question. I listened to this and said nothing. Despite this dangerous lack of psychology, no doubt involuntary on the part of a former prisoner, my opinion came to be established otherwise, freely, partly thanks to the understanding of Tadeusz Iwaszko who, during my latest visits, refused me nothing, according to my requests whether they were justified or not].

The number of victims destroyed by the «milks» of Auschwitz, originally stated in the 4 million, is now considered to be between 1 and 1.5 million.

[Rudi Hilberg, Professor in the Political Science Department of the University of Vermont, calculated the number of Jews sent to Auschwitz from the number of trains heading there, cross-checking with the count of the number of wagons arriving as recorded by the resistance organizations. The number of Jews arriving amounted to between 1.05 and 1.1 million. Georges Wellers, in his study published in «Le Monde Juif» No. 112 (198) entitled «Essai de détermination du nombre de morts du camp d'Auschwitz» arrives at a total of 1,471,595 dead, of whom 1,334,000 gassed. For my part, I obtained a result close to Hilberg's using a subjective method based on a comparison between the claimed and actual throughputs of the Krematorium furnaces and the statements of witnesses again compared with factual evidence.]

Since I was getting on good terms with Tadeusz Iwaszko, I suggested that excavations in the area of Leschenkelier I of Krematorium II and III should solve some of the problems. He replied that now they would be of no value because, whatever the result, the Poles would be accused of having held 35 years to «arrange» the site. I went on to ask: «Why not publish all the drawings of the Krematorium without superfluous comment?» Skeptical and evasive answer.

[In November 1979, this idea did not appeal to Iwaszko. But later on, he and Smolen encouraged me to do so. «Do it yourself» and in a neutral spirit. It was in fact exactly the same idea that was put forward at the same time by Faurisson, but for a different reason, that of gathering a maximum of information to support his nihilist thesis].

The exchange of confidences continued. Iwaszko told me about one of my compatriots who had preceded me by a few years [early March 1976].

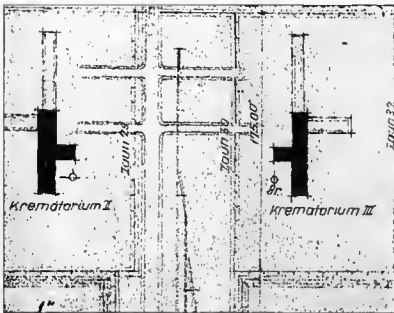


Photo 14
[Photos by the author]
Part view looking north-south, of the «Ressort» on corpse chute in the ruins of Krematorium III

Photo 13
Enlargement (3x) of Krematorium II and III (part of an overall plan of Birkenau, extract from the Soviet film «Chronicles of the liberation of the camp, 1945».



Photo 15
[Photograph and inscriptions by the author]
KRE MATORIUM III RUINS,
LOOKING EAST WEST

Translation of inscriptions:

- Leschenkelier 1
[gas chamber]
Salle des fours/
Furnace room
Emplacement de la
gazoire/Location of the
corpse chute
Monle-chaise/Corps III
Leschenkelier 2
[dressing room]
Escalier d'accès/Access
airway
Plafond de la salle des
fours/Furnace room roof

This particular Freeilman had left an impression. A most unpleasant individual. This awful man had like me come to the Archives and also discovered the plans of the Krematorium.

[Drawings 932 and 934 (Krematorium III), 2136 (K. III), one or two of K. I and an overall plan of the Birkenau camp, drawing 2503 of 18/6/43. Early in 1977 he received copies of the drawings of Krematorium II and III he had consulted and at the end of 1977 the Museum sent him reproductions of the K. I drawing of 25/9/41 and Krematorium IV and V drawing 2036 of 11/1/43.]

But after two days he packed up and went home because he had caught a cold. Once back home, this hypocrite to whom everything had been generously shown wrote articles (Le Monde of 16/1/78, «Le Monde» of 29/12/78 and 16/1/79) claiming that the hydrocyanic acid homicidal gas chambers would never have been able to function physically and hence that the extermination of the Jews was a legend. Trying to maintain that the homicidal gas chambers at Auschwitz-Birkenau never existed amounted to historical inaccuracy and downright lying. It appeared that a certain Professor «Lauriston» was the author of these absurdities. [Lauriston was learned about the «Faurisson affair» thanks to a visit to the FMO Archives by Maître Bernard Jaccoussat, as lawyer for the LICRA, on 12th June 1979, five months before my own visit].

Though I was sure I would eventually be able to get at the truth, I was hampered by the terrible weather conditions and completed only half of my programme of producing slides of the camp, the gas being filled by 150 photographs sent to me by the Museum. I would say in passing that while Ivasko was always helpful and friendly, even managing to save a film that had broken in my camera, the attitude of a few Polish policemen was quite different and I underwent a most unpleasant grilling and two negative of a newly-begun film confiscated, simply because I had the misfortune to photograph the bridge over the Auschwitz railway (the famous bridge where, on 1st March 1941, Himmler, accompanied by his retinue, had indicated with a wave of the hand that the Birkenau area should be the site for the construction of a new camp for 100,000 prisoners of war (Kriegsgefangenen) or KGL), the siding going towards Birkenau and the nearby factory (all the period) surrounded by barbed wire, which was apparently producing equipment for the police. For a whole hour I was able to savour the uncomfortable position of a western spy, for this is when I was considered to be.

Nonetheless, I had come to find answers to my questions, and I had them, even if I still had no absolute certainty. Just as I was setting off, I came upon a group of French former prisoners, come specially for All Saints Day. They congratulated me, complementing my fine historical curiosity, calling me a «relay» or «transmitter» of the good word, A radiant woman former prisoner, a blond lady doctor, tried to find out if I could bear witness in some way or other in the media. It was only later that I understood the motives of this woman. There are so few real specialists of the problem in the west that she considered it highly desirable to «eco-ony» me. But I politely declined and did not reveal my identity, declaring myself to be an insignificant nobody. At that time I could not understand this former prisoner's request, not knowing that some people did not believe or no longer believed in this horror. People like Audrey Bricht, a Polish writer born in 1935 who left his country in 1970 to settle in Canada, who writes in his «Exorcism

Auschwitz-Birkenau» (1966 and January 1980, NRF, Editions Gallimard, for the French version), «I observed these ruins [those of Krematorium III] incapable of believing that many people could have been buried in such a miserable building», and says, «Who could know what really happened here [in Birkenau] and even whether all that existed».

During the conversation with the former prisoners, the name of Lauriston and came up again. This thoroughly aroused my curiosity and I decided to contact him and find out what his views were. Five months passed. After two preliminary telephone conversations I met the gentleman concerned, Professor Faurisson (to give his correct spelling). He appeared to look normal. About fifty, very much the academic. Apart from a somewhat acid voice on the phone he seemed quite correct.

The first meeting lasted one or five hours. I emerged with my head burning. A splitting headache. We had both approached the problem in the same way. Through drawings. Something tangible, concrete. Not on the basis of vague testimonies, always true in the eyes of their authors, but without great historical value frequently deformed by different factors. The floodgates of one mutual source of information very quickly opened. I knew a fair bit, but he seemed to know a hundred times more, and in depth, supported by serene and unimpeachable references.

[End of the text extracted from the notes]

I worked with Robert Faurisson from the end of March 1980 to December 1980. Then, as all serious historical research began impossible, his dogma being paramount, one meetings became less frequent, though we remained in touch, then the final break came in April 1981. Before being able to realize that the force of his argument rested purely and simply on the lead he held in the knowledge of the facts, I used to catch up with him. Only then was I able to judge impartially the value of his arguments. What first made me think deeply, helped me said, I admit, disturbed me, was Pierre Vidal-Naquet's article of September 1980, «Le mythe d'Auschwitz». The second factor was my own research at the FMO Archives and the documents I found there in three stages (25th-30th August, 4th-17th October and 11th-21st November 1980). Third was the pleading of Maître Bernard Jaccoussat at the hearing of 1st June 1981 at the High Court of Paris during the «Faurisson trial». But as early as the end of August 1980, Faurisson, who was not at that time aware of it, could no longer count me among his unconditional supporters. His theory stood up for only TWO DAYS to a direct historical confrontation with the Museum documents and the Birkenau ruins, the just result of over-busy research that, sorry to say, had also lasted two days.

I met a twosome, Robert Faurisson and Pierre Guillemau. The first called himself a historian and an «anarchist of the right». The second supported the first, published him, and considered himself to be an «anarchist of the left». They formed a most disparate couple. The meetings took place at the home of Pierre Guillemau, who put Faurisson up during his visits to Paris. I never understood why Guillemau supported Faurisson. Guillemau already publishing Paul Rassinier's a

works, it seemed logical that he should be interested in the works of another revisionist, Faurisson, sexual and documentary critic, Professor in the Classical and Modern Letters and Civilization Faculty at the University of Lyon 2.

Why did I work with them? Because they brought precise answers in response to my doubts. People born after the Second World War no longer believe in anything very much. The hypocrisy of human behaviour, the systematic falsification of information and deliberate deformation of the facts have become more than suspicious of any official sources, «authorized beliefs» and «expert opinions». This attitude implies that before accepting anything, one has to check for oneself its truth and significance. The necessary openness to all that stems from this causes «permeability», which in turn leads to a certain «fragility». In the case of Auschwitz, this means listening to both parties (there are only two), judging the validity of their arguments and, where necessary going further into their theses, while maintaining one's own liberty. Thus one gentleman, a university professor, told me: «You have doubts about the functioning of the Birkenau crematorium? Of course you have, because they never served to exterminate people and they did not contain gas chambers». On the other side, shortly afterwards, a member of a Jewish organization inopportunely advised me «stop tormenting myself with the study of this problem», clearly indicating that I should abandon any work on this subject, which should remain «private property».

When I first made contact with Faurisson, the position of his studies was summed up in his interview in «Storia Illustrata» number 261 of August 1979, by Assisio Piatimio [published after having been revised, corrected and commented by Faurisson in «Vérité Historique ou Vérité Politique» by Serge Thion, La Vieille Taupe, April 1980].

The gas chambers at Auschwitz, Meidenick and Strübel were his current targets. Those of Madanek looked so ridiculous to him that he had not developed his refutation very far. According to him, the confession by the former commandant of Strübel, Josef Kerner, established the invalidity of the homicidal gaspump, because of sheer chemical impossibility. As for Auschwitz, the comparison of two plans of Krematorium I (Type A: Sons drawing D.59042 of 25/9/41 and Bauleitung drawing 4287 of 21/9/44) supplied by the Museum enabled him to compare away the gas chamber by demonstrating a «rearrangement» of the premises that corresponded to no original drawing. Fired by this success, he extended his argument to Birkenau Krematorium II, III, IV and V, mainly using «internal criticisms» of the autobiography of the first commandant of the camp, Rudolf Höss [who was actually retaining an episode that took place at Bunkers I and 2]. He went on to attack even more fiercely the gas chambers at Buchenwald [where there really were none], Dachau, Mauthausen [the work by Pierre Serge Choumoff proves their existence], Oranienburg [one seems to have worked, using liquid hydrocyanic acid, but its mode of employment seems to me impracticable and to require more explanation] and Ravensbrück [where small-scale gasings using Zyklon B in a roughly converted barracks were carried out at the end of the war]. Using a method dear to him, Faurisson sheltered behind the writings of traditional authors to confirm his negations. Doctor Martin Broszat's famous letter (published in «Die Zeit» of 19th August 1960) entitled «No gassing at Dachau», which established the non-existence of gas chambers at Dachau, Bergen-Belsen and Buchenwald, generalizing this to the whole territory of the former Reich facilitated his «liquidations» of

Dachau and Buchenwald. Olga Wormser-Migot with «Le Système concentrationnaire nazi, 1933-45» (PUF 1968) helped him to declare the gas chambers of Mauthausen and Hartheim to be mythical. He adopted the principle of taking the enemy's arms and turning them against him. What is more, the publication of «Vérité Historique» by Serge Thion provided him with a «moral guarantee» against the «persecutors» to which he was subject and, above all, a spectacular tactical victory in revealing that the «DIARY OF ANNE FRANK is nothing but a literary hoax». Those who read his demonstration considered it to be valid [even Pierre Vidal-Naquet, who was to become the first man to stop Faurisson on his tracks]. It was not until 1986 that doubts arose. Harry Passee (Director of the Netherlands Institute for War Documentation [RIOD] and Secretary-General of the International Committee for the History of the Second World War) and his team published in Amsterdam «De dagboeken van Anne Frank», a book demonstrating the authenticity of the different versions of the « diary» by means of a strictly material study. It will be possible for us here in France to make one final decision once this is available in French. However, it proves already that the scouring of texts as recommended by Faurisson has its limits and becomes worthless in the face of a materialistic approach using original documents.

For those not thoroughly versed in the finer technical points of gas chambers, and thus near 99.999% of the population, Faurisson's claims were a revelation. A true masterpiece, finely polished and unassailable. Nobody sitting down opposite Faurisson and listening to him for one or two hours could fail to emerge from the conversation shaken or completely converted to his cause. He was steeped in his subject, backed up by 200 kg of documents, 200 photographs, 10 years of reading and 4 years of intensive work. What could one say when he started off.

«What I say is that the famous gas chambers were just another fabrication of the war. This propaganda invention is to be compared with the legends spread during the First World War about «Teutonic barbarity». At that time already the Germans were being accused of perfectly imaginary crimes: Belgian children with their hands outstretched, Canadians crucified, corpses transformed into soup, etc.»

One could but nod one's head and listen in wonder. This extract shows one of the tricks used to get the message across: pulling forward a lie (the gas chambers are only war propaganda) then covering it immediately with a well-known truth (the German crimes invented by the British in 1914-18 [Photo 16]), brought out to protect the false initial position. This process was pushed to the absolute limits of its possibilities in an 80 page pamphlet published by Guillemau in 1982, «L'incroyable «Affaire Faurisson»» [The incredible Faurisson Affair], containing the conclusions lodged by the LICRA and Faurisson's responses to them at the Court of Appeal. This mixture of truths, lies and unjustified interpretations reached such a level of subterfuge that it is virtually impossible to unravel. Even a «specialist» such as I had myself become guilty by accident, had difficulty in separating the grain from the chaff. This is one of the first examples of the Faurisson style. The Appeal Court judges allowed themselves to be influenced by this insidious rhetoric and their judgement of 26th April 1983 «confirmed» that «at present nobody can convict him [Faurisson] of lying...», a ridiculous conclusion when one knows the man. But alas, how can one suppress an ironic smile when he speaks of the «gasings» in Dachau:



Photo 34
After world art history

The dust jacket of an anti-English propaganda booklet published in Berlin in 1943 and denouncing the 'heinous German crimes' invented and published by the English in 1914-15.

Title: 'ENGLISH LIES in the World War' by Werner Schaeffer, cover illustration by Peko

Translation of the inscriptions

The despised little army
The crucified Canadian
The hands cut off children...
The corpse factory
German atrocities in Belgium

Photo 35
(Continued) by Sever
Klingfeld (Source unknown)

View of the Dachau crematorium at the liberation of the camp. American soldiers are partly taking the bodies of bodies awaiting cremation outside the building.



Photo 36 (right)

Inside the room housing the four furnaces, with former prisoners handling corpses for the benefit of the war correspondents



Photo 37
Source: Express Newspapers

The door of the first of the four disinfection gas chambers in the Dachau crematorium building, early May 1945

Translation of the inscriptions

Gassing hours: 7.30 to 10.30 a.m.
Attention! Gas! Danger! Do not open!

The Dachau crematorium (Photo 36) comprised a main part in the main room (Photo 37) with four cremation furnaces, the supposed gas chamber with the inscription 'GASZIMMER' and four disinfection chambers numbered 1 to 4. There is no evidence that these last two chambers were gas chambers, still remains, but as late as 1987 this type of photograph was presented in the 'Dachau gas chambers' at the 'Schubert' of the deportation 1933-45 on the 'Todesstraße' in Paris. The nature of the disinfection gas is not known, but the cycle lasted 3 hours.

Faurisson's documentation was beginning to show gaps as work proceeded. I was asked to go to the Museum to find more material. I was free to do as I thought fit, but specific tasks were to check in situ the «reconstruction» of Krematorium I and carefully check the references in the Polish book by Judge Jan Sehn, *Les crimes allemands en Pologne* (German crimes in Poland), published in Warsaw in 1948. Then came the final instructions from Washington: «Enter the ruins of Krematorium II and III» and visit the «disinfection» barracks in «Bauschütz/Concentration stages» of Birkenau. In July, Faurisson had warned me against the tendency to see «falsehoods» everywhere like the Swedish revisionist Felderer: *«There really are no falsehoods, but simply false interpretations of things that really existed»*. I was by now well-prepared to «revise» the «official» history of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

[Part of the preceding section and what follows is a short summary of my visit of 25th to 30th August 1990, entitled «AUSCHWITZ QUINTET»]

First day: 26th August 1990

At eight o'clock sharp I presented myself at the Auschwitz Archives. I gave Thon's book to Tadeusz Iwaszko, telling him that the situation was serious. Auschwitz, «*Hörs of the twentieth century*», etc. Iwaszko didn't (um) a harp, simply asking the purpose of my visit. I said that Faurisson, supported by certain elements of the French extreme left, was becoming a threat. He had to be fought, and on his own ground. It was necessary to study the technology and naively explain the Zyklon-B gasings and back that up with irrefutable historical material. Iwaszko understood my point of view, but would never subscribe to it, being convinced that no disinformation was possible, whatever the documents produced (and he is right). He considered Thon's work to be simply a pamphlet. And then he had doubts about my sincerity. Either I was telling the truth, or I was an emissary sent by Faurisson. But whatever his personal opinion, he could not officially accuse me and had to provide me with the documents I requested.

This conversation took place in a somewhat tense atmosphere. My approach work is tricky because I was not fully acquainted with what I knew to exist. The Museum had sent me only 59 negatives of the 150 I had ordered and I had returned them because they were not up to standard. He brought out the same drawings as in November 1979, ones I knew by heart through having recopied them. Finally I went to first principles and requested the volumes of the Hoess trial. At last I was able to make some progress, finding there the references I required. At 1 p.m. the Archives closed and I had to pick up. Not very fruitful, this first contact, but I had found the right road.

In the afternoon, investigations at Birkenau. The cloudy weather of the morning had given way to sunshine. Destination the disinfection barracks, *Bauwerken/Werkstätten BW 5a and 5b* (women) was open, but 5a (men) was closed. Rapid visit of both buildings with few seating rings. Gas chambers? [No, I was mistaken. There were but six disinfection chambers. I had passed through the «real» gas chamber that used Zyklon-B as disinfection agent, without even realizing it. Then I went on to the BAJ sewage treatment station next to Krematorium III. More photographs. I came to Leichenkeller I of Krematorium II, one of the «supposed» homicidal gas chambers. I

wandered round these 210 m² surrounded by such mystery. The sky was clear and the sun pleasantly warm. The weeds growing over the ruins were healthy. Their shade of green proclaiming summer. A stark contrast with the Leichenkeller I, its roof broken into large slabs. Two of the slabs formed a kind of roof [on the extreme left on Photo 15]. Stupefaction. It was possible to step inside through the ridge of this «roof» and there was enough light to take photographs. An archeological dream. I could not believe my eyes, speechless by what I discovered. And certain confirmations were already evident. I had been right in June, when I was studying poor photographs of the construction drawings. The upper ventilation duct of «corpse cellar I» was a very primitive arrangement made of wood. There remained only a few bits of buttons stapled to the concrete ceiling, but that sufficed. In the centre of the accessible section there was a pillar, almost intact, which was what still supported part of the ceiling. At the foot of this pillar, under 50 cm of water, I was able to see not of the waste water drains as on drawing 932 of the Krematorium basement. I was jubilant because the presence of this drain connected directly with Krematorium II corroborated what I had observed on the drawings: it was not possible to gas people in Leichenkeller I because the hydrocyanic acid gas could escape through the drains into the building and poison the air in parts of it. In the ceiling, a piece of planking recalled the *Bausleitung* of 29th January 1943, stating that because of the frost the removal of the form work had been delayed [mistaken interpretation]. It was the emplacement of one of the 24 dummy showers found in the gas chamber. Scarcely had I emerged from this rather special place, when I encountered further surprises. Manholes hidden in the vegetation led me to discover shafts leading to the very foundations of Leichenkeller I. I descended into one of them, using the metal rungs left into the back wall. This «gas chamber» had more holes in it than a sieve. Gassing would obviously be impossible, for the building above and its surroundings would have been subjected to the toxic and deadly effects of prussic acid. I ran to Krematorium III. Identical findings, except that I could not descend into the manholes because they were of different design, concrete pipes with no ladder built in. It disappeared into the forest because a group of tourists was approaching. I went through «Kilranlagewasch» treatment station II and arrived at the Zentral Sauna. It was closed as usual and I went behind the building to look for an open window. I was soon able to jump inside. I took some photographs of the clothing disinfection autoclaves, the only authentic «gas chambers» according to Faurisson. Lastly, I went to Krematorium V, completely choked by vegetation. Not much use taking photographs. The ground floor was an shown on the *Bausleitung* drawing. About ruins. And on the way back I finally found the ruins of Krematorium IV. There remained nothing but the concrete floor and the outline of the different rooms. I began to feel I had enough. «Morgen ist auch ein Tag/Tomorrow is another day»

Second day: 27th August

Nine o'clock. Archives. I asked Iwaszko to help me find the documents I considered the «*Badanzenen für Sonderaktionen*» (plans for special actions), a term designating the gas chambers of Krematorium IV and V (wrong. In the note of 21st August 1942, this expression refers to Blockers I and 2, not to the Krematorien, which were not yet built). He is not familiar with the expressions, even though it is one of the favourite themes of many authors. Where does it come from? Not very pleasant. I didn't insist. My discoveries of the previous day kept coming into my mind. To such an extent that I was unable to

stop myself telling him about the «holes» around the «*Komora gazowa*». Not at all disconcerted, he asked what I thought about them. On the spur of the moment I replied: «Because of the constantly wet ground, water infiltrated the lower ventilation ducts. This system would have served to evacuate this water. He disappeared, leaving me to study volume 14 of the Hoess trial. Then he came back and unfolded yet another plan, *Bausleitung* drawing 1300 of 18/6/42, «Krematorium-Erweiterung/Krematorium drawings». A real slap in the face. Demolition of my hypothesis that gassing was impossible because of the arrangement of the drainage system. What is more, the shafts discovered in the ruins were not connected with the ventilation system, but with the drainage. Drawing 1300 corresponds exactly with the ruins. Unlike on drawing 932, the drainage system of Leichenkeller I is now AUTONOMOUS, quite separate from that of the rest of the building. It no longer joins the rest, but goes off at right angles to drain into the main sewer sewer coming from the Krematorium. This separate drainage made it possible to carry out any number of gasings with no danger of dangerous contamination. There had clearly been a MODIFICATION of the Leichenkeller I drainage. In volume 11 I found a trace of the phantom Krematorium VI, based on inscription in open-air slab: plum of red and white «furnaces», Blockers I and 2, extracts from the correspondence and orders concerning the construction of the Krematorien, divided into four groups: the Schlosser/metalworking shop file, the correspondence between the firm responsible for the cremation furnaces, Topf & Sons, and the Auschwitz «Zentralbauverwaltung/control construction management, the Huta file, this being the firm that built the shells of the four Krematorien, and the Tagesloshaus/daily lodgings (a and b). Being unable to translate all this material immediately, I asked Iwaszko for photocopies [I was dreaming!]: to be made in time for me to be able to take them home with me. He promised to let me have an answer the next day, although he thought my request would be difficult to meet because of the deteriorating situation in Poland at that time. The north was affected by a strike that was spreading to the whole country.

In the afternoon I returned to Birkenau and mobilized an attendant. Another examination of Krematorium IV, in line with the drawings, as was the drainage system. The attendant gave me to understand that there was something else worth seeing, behind Krematorium V. After a few minutes' walk at the woods, we came to a small hollow. He bent and started to knead the soil. In a flash I understood: pieces of human bone. Buckets full. He took me into the Birkenwald. And again, half-filled trenches where content spoke volumes. Crushed bones. It affected me greatly, turned me over to spite of myself. We turned back and he headed for «Kanada» (thus where the goods and chambers of new arrivals were kept). He took a path flanked by tall grass that led to a square metre of ground where there was a mass of knives, forks, spoons, scissors and clippers meticulously arranged, charred, rusted: an unbearable, shapeless mass. I wanted to see the Zentral Sauna again. He had no key, so we got in through a window at the back, now a tradition. Before the three autoclaves, I asked him: «*Komora gazowa?*» «*Niel! Nie! Paraz!*» Steam Faurisson was mistaken. The clothing disinfection autoclaves that he presented as authentic «gas chambers», turned out to be just steam, not gas. Beyond them were four brick disinfection chambers [known as «Topf disinfection events»]. I wanted to know what disinfection agent was used, and went down into the «*Hörschenschleifung*» (sliding) tank. Everything was flooded, but despite this the barrels were still visible. These were hot air chambers. No gas, be it T, Zyklon-B, Truxo or Veniox. Bad news for Faurisson! That was the end of work for the 27th.

Third day: 28th August

Gloomy weather. Bewilks/overcast. Nine o'clock. Archives. Iwaszko had prepared the drawings requested the previous day. This of the «*Luftschutzbunker* für SS Reserve mit einem Operationsraum/Air raid shelter for the SS hospital with operating theatre», resulting from the conversion of Ki 1, the «old» Krematorium was unfolded on a table. I note the details that I had not been able to decipher in June on the map at Faurisson's files. But I have the impression that it is not exactly the same drawing and give way to a moment of pause. If the Museum keeps bringing out different drawings of a given building, this seems a poor basis for my putting forward any theory whatever. This drawing, «287», is dated 21/9/44. Faurisson believed it to date from July 1943. Since the references were legible on the photograph, he had worked on the date from a letter from the Museum. Worrying. And yet everything fitted. It was certainly the drawing of which he had published a photograph in «*Thon*» (page 317, photo 8) [during my next trip I realized that there were two identical drawings with different inscriptions. Printed from a tracing of the first drawing, the second (Faurisson's) was concerned with the water pipes and fittings. The additional information was added to the original paper in Indian ink]. Worried by this unsuspected problem, I confronted Iwaszko: «It is really in its original state, this Krematorium VI, with its rebuilt chimney, two badly rebuilt furnaces, the door between the furnace room and the morgue reinstalled a metre from its original position, the gas-light door imitated, an external door converted into a window, the windows remade, the partition walls in the morgue/gas chamber demolished, the Zyklon-B introduction outlets installed after the war?». He confirmed the reconstruction and explained his view. What mattered was not the internal and external aspect of the building itself, but the «images» they wanted to recreate of a homicidal gas chamber, a place where many people had actually suffocated with Zyklon-B. I accepted this, rejoicing at his confirmation regarding Krematorium I, and went on to study the disinfection barrack, BW 5a, drawing 801 of 11/1/41. I was astonished to read «*Wash- und Brausestrassen/Wash and shower rooms*» and, just above this, «*GASKAMMER*». The association of showers and gas chambers could have become «showers are gas chambers» in the minds of prisoners. Possible. The drawing did not correspond to what was now remained. These followed a series of drawings of BW 5a and 5b showing the gradual evolution of the premises, with the creation of new rooms, with a store [read open!]. A technical installation corrected to a disinfection chamber. The term «*Gaskammer*» still appeared, but on the final drawing, 2540 of 5/7/43, the gas chamber had been replaced by a chamber connected to a hot air generator.

[BW 5a was in fact fitted with a de-gassing chamber using Zyklon-B, then the equipment required for gas operation was removed and two hot air disinfection chambers were installed in that room. In BW 5b another Zyklon-B de-gassing chamber was installed. This was not subsequently converted, but remains at it was, with two extractor fans visible in its east wall. That these two gas chambers, installed in a most primitive fashion, actually functioned with Zyklon-B, is attested by the fact that their walls were turned blue both outside and inside. This utilization led to two conclusions. First, that Faurisson's thesis that using gas chambers was a complex business was wrong after studying the ultra-sophisticated American execution gas chambers, he had come to the conclusion that because of their very simplicity, the Auschwitz «homicidal installations» were technically incapable of functioning. Second, the use of Zyklon-B as a disinfection agent at Auschwitz was clearly established, so that it was no longer possible to maintain, as did

the different humans that ALL the Zyklon-B was used for extermination. There were in fact about 25 Zyklon-B decontamination chambers of different sizes operating in the camp.

I then began to study the «Zentral Sauna» file. This sanitary complex was a sauna only in name. It contained 4 «Entwesungskammer/detoxification chambers» installed by Messrs Topf & Sons and which ran off produced by hearths located in pits alongside the 3 airlocks were shown on the drawings, but without any details [the discovery of the Breitenling album made it possible to identify them positively as amovables in the stoker versus because of the presence of pressure gauges]. At the end of this session, with the threat of the strike very much in the air, Iwazko told me that the next day he would do his best to go to work, but that with no bus service he was unlikely to be present. My work in the Archives virtually came to an end there.

Fourth day: 29th August

At nine o'clock the next morning I appeared before the locked door of the PMO Archives. I rang. An official I knew vaguely by sight opened the door - «Pan Iwazko?» I asked. «Nie! Strzelo! Nie! Strzelo!» I inspected as much. The man's tone sounded somewhat surly. I stooped the flow of words with a gesture, smiled at him, and wished him a good strike. That changed everything. His surly expression disappeared and we parted on friendly terms.

...I still had to fill the afternoon. The sun was slowing emerging. I decided to go to Birkenau, but as a tourist, not as a researcher. When I arrived at speed at the road leading to the KGL watchtower, I and a shock! A smoking locomotive was pushing four wagons along. It stopped before the camp. Silhouettes in all the familiar verdigris uniforms were restraining aggressive Aushwitz. Police of the Feldgendarmen. Some SS in their distinctive caps were gawking about... In the wagons, a consignment of people dressed in dark cloth, with white armbands bearing the black star of David were waiting. I and arrived at the beginning of the shooting of a film about Birkenau, «Mura», a Polish-American coproduction. The Feldgendarmen were Polish militia, the SS young soldiers. The uniforms and equipment were impeccable and a guaranteed authentic. A grey Kübelwagen was parked in front of the entrance building, a dashing SS Hauptsturmführer/captain and his driver standing beside it. I struck up an acquaintance. The actor, Irm Kretowicz, spoke good German. He immediately recognized my line of business, «Artist/doctor?» «Yes, Apolocher.» While I was chatting over the car engine, the original, a tall civilian, a well-dressed forty-year-old with blondish thinning hair, arrived on the scene and started to bug me. He gave me to understand that, Frenchman or no Frenchman, I was not allowed to take photographs. What the hell... For eight years, at the military school, I had been forbidden to read certain books, see certain films, to do this, to do that... Once the reactions began, I started my illicit photographing, often under difficult conditions, but nothing escaped me and nothing stopped me. A succession of pictures. The doors of the wagons were thrown open and the Jews jumped down to the railway. By their attitudes, they were depicted and harassed unmercifully by the young SS, all this accompanied by the wild barking of the dogs that the Feldgendarmen had there and more difficulty in controlling as the taken succeeded one another, being repeated until the scene reached the required degree of ferocity. The result was achieved with difficulty. For the first «Aktion».

preceded by an incident where a sliding door, stuck in the rust, refused to open, provoking the rage of the detainer and the hilarity of everybody else, proceeded much too calmly. The Jews descended quietly from the train and moved off towards the camp gates in silence, ignoring the row of SS backed up by a second line of six Feldgendarmen with their dogs lying at their feet, indifferent and silent. A historically authentic reaction at the opposite pole from what is generally believed. It took a whole afternoon of repeats, of takes, for the SS to learn how to «unload» a convoy in one or two minutes. Which shows that ferocity, even in Polish militia and soldiers is not a gift of nature, but has to be learned. By the evening, they had perfected the technique. I saw incredible scenes of pure violence on the part of young soldiers who really got into the act and thrumped away at the Jewish stragglers, Poles like themselves. As for the dogs, excited beyond endurance by the ambience, they twice rolled their masters, no longer able to control them, in the dirt. Lunacy... but the conditioning had been successful.

As time went on, I became intoxicated by this induced brutality. Then the shooting of more intimate scenes, involving selected actors and actresses, began. At the beginning I had noticed four young «Jewesses» dressed all in black, leaning against a truck. But they were by no means commonplace or ordinary. Very luxurious models. Got up like queens dressed in trumps' clothing designed to emphasize the high quality chassis. All this game - Americans for sure - seemed to be reserved and was jealously «protected» from nasty but enterprising poachers. These charming decorations entered the scene under floodlights in the early evening. There were jaw-jerking contrasts between their candid, suffering little faces and the wild SS raining blows on them.

I eventually headed for the Krematorium to watch the sunset over the furnaces. Coming back towards the gate down the central path, I saw a whisp of smoke on my left, then suddenly a tall chimney belched a thick, dark cloud of smoke. The Jews. They were being burnt... fictionally. As the chymneyless Krematorium were behind me, I was litigated by this chimney from beyond the comb. Bial for the purposes of the film, it rose in the centre of the only remaining row of intact stable-type huts in Birkenau [B IIa, the quarantine sector]. I had not noticed that the «Schwerpunkt» (centre of gravity) of «Mura» had shifted and that they were now shooting before and inside the huts of B.IIa. After dinner, I returned to Birkenau and made a rendezvous for 7 o'clock the next morning with the civilian guard to photograph the chimney and the vehicles that been left on the site.

Fifth day: 30th March 1980

7.30 a.m. in the persistent dawn mist of Birkenau. The guard was waiting with no sign of impatience. Since I had met him, I had always heard him speak correct French, but I had the impression that sometimes he was unable to understand it any more. But no matter, at least in his presence I could speak my native language. I started taking pictures. One entire film was devoted to the vehicles. Then I went on to the chimney that had been smoking. A few approach shots to integrate it in the context of the huts [Photo 18], then rounding one of them I was able to see its construction. At the base the supporting frame of four heavy beams was visible [Photo 19]. It was a lar reportage of the chimney of Krematorium I: a square section extended chimney covered with plastic moulded and coloured to represent brickwork, the top being soot-blackened to complete the illusion. Inside there was a

ladder going up to near the top where the smoke producing device had been placed. It was lucky that I hadn't wasted any time, for by ten o'clock everything had been dismantled and removed. [It is worth noting that shooting took place without any problems IN THE MIDDLE OF A GENERAL STRIKE. What power the dollar had!]

Then back to the Stamenlager and the Archives. There was no time left to undertake any new research. I confined to Iwazko the references of the drawings and texts for which I wanted «optoelectronics» and filled in my official report to the Museum under his watchful eye. The documents included some drawings of the Krematorium, virtually all those of BW 34a and 34b and of the Zentral Sauna and several other documents (legal exhibits) from volume 11 of the Hoess trial. Even as I was writing, I was dreading I would never see a single one of these documents, since I had been disappointed with my previous experience. [Which turned out to be wrong. The Museum perfectly and scrupulously fulfilled my order. BUT I had to take delivery personally, on my next visit.] Iwazko had spoken to me of a fine book that I was to take back to a former prisoner in France, but he had not brought it. Some trouble due to the strike? [On my return from my next trip, I delivered the book to Mr Jacques Zylberstein, deported to Auschwitz then sent to Rimma Monszatek at the age of 14. This man was to play a discreet but considerable role in my subsequent work].

It goes without saying that as a result of this trip my revisionist «beliefs» had been severely shaken. The «damage» turned out to be serious. Faurisson's theories had been swept away like wisps of straw. I was not yet entirely convinced of the reality of the gasings, because some of my questions had still received no answer [I would find them for myself], but I had doubts about denying their existence. Oswiecim and Poland had neutralized me.

[End of the summary of «OSWIECIM QUINTET» or «NEUTRALIZATION»]

In September 1980, Faurisson and Guillaume came to my place to assess the value of what I had been able to pick up in the Auschwitz Museum. I had admittedly been able to take many photographs, which I thought would help Faurisson form a more concrete picture of the site, but I had not been able to bring back any documents. In fact it was they who brought documents, sent to him by the opposing party, [Malthe Joazeau, acting for the LACRA]. The material thus transmitted in September represented a somewhat daunting mass of documents (in terms of volume). As it by coincidence, as we sifted these documents, the same pieces of evidence that I had found in the PMO kept appearing. Faurisson did not see the funny side of this similarity. Malthe Joazeau and myself had totally separately, but on the indications of Iwazko, selected the same type of «exhibits», these being the kind of document that Faurisson detested because he was scarcely capable of countering them. An involuntary collusion on the part of our adversary was that in German or Polish and still had to be translated. These legal translations, despite their imperfections, were a great help to me. When a translation appeared strange to me, I took it to the Museum and, with Iwazko's help, compared it with the original text [especially where the original was in Polish]. I was always right to check them, because that way the meaning became clear. But this verification meant trips to Poland and therefore extended over a period of months, so that Faurisson was not able to «benefit» from it. Moreover, when an obscure

passage became comprehensible, it frequently provided further evidence AGAINST Faurisson. The September meeting at least showed us the extent of the evidence, a complete surprise to Faurisson himself. The vast majority of the charges were based on testimony and these were systematically rejected as dubious. But the most dangerous archive documents, and I could confirm this, came from the Auschwitz Museum. It was therefore decided to devote all efforts to demolishing the Auschwitz gas chambers. If I succeeded in removing this cornerstone of the Birkenau edifice, the rest would collapse with it. It was a desperate solution, but the only logical one compatible with our resources. Faurisson was forced to take everything on it. I was so redoubtable my efforts studying the documents concerning the construction of the Krematorium in the hope of finding evidence that homicidal gas chambers had never been installed in these buildings. In addition, the study of disinfection in the camp, which looked promising, was to be continued.

I made two visits to Auschwitz that were as long as I could make them in view of my professional activities. Fourteen days from 4th to 17th October and eleven days from 11th to 21st November 1980. Just before the first of these trips, I read the article by Pierre Vidal-Naquet, «Un Eschmann de papier» [A paper Eschmann] and the preface by Paul Thibaud, «La mémoire d'Auschwitz» in the journal «L'Esprit» [9th issue, September 1980]. The article troubled me, but no more than that. The few PMO documents I had studied and my good knowledge of the revisionist cause enabled me to reply to and criticize this article with honesty, sure of my ground. I retained two phrases by P. Thibaud: «It is not a memory», and «how could that have come about?» [technically, I added]. And the following statement by Pierre Vidal-Naquet:

That the war should have ended, that the tragedy should, in a sense, have become secularized, this has to be accepted, even if it means for us, I mean for us Jews, the loss of the kind of privileged right of speech that we used to have to a large extent, now that Europe has discovered the great massacre.

opened the door to non-Jewish researchers who wished to establish a second «memory of Auschwitz». I was later to see that outstretched hand, to Vidal-Naquet's great surprise.

In the Archives, I started studying the drawings of Krematorium II and III, of IV and V and of the documents concerning their construction. There are 26 drawings of the four Krematoriums, stored at files BW 30/1 to 30/24 (plus 30/19a, 30/20 concerning two drawings). The documents are in files BW 30/25 to 30/33. They are so designated because the Krematorium worksites (Bauwerke) were numbered by the Banlistung as follows: BW 30/Kr.II, BW 30/Kr.III, BW 30/Kr.IV, BW 30/Kr.V. This classification is easy enough to use when one knows the numbers attributed by the Banlistung to worksites on completed buildings [for example: Krematorium I is designated BW 11, then BW 14 when it was converted to an air raid shelter; all the sewage treatment stations are referred to as BW 18, the Zentral Sauna as BW 32], but it is somewhat confusing for the uninitiated. In 1980, the BW 30 files only went as far as 30/31, but in 1986 the last file recorded in the Archives was BW 30/46. In other words, historical research is not static, but progresses as more documents are found. File BW 30/43 was created as a result of my own study visits to Warsaw, and 30/

Photo 18
(Photo by the author)

Dummy Krematorium chimney rising above a row
of barracks in 1944.



45 and 46 my visit to East Berlin. It may appear foolish, but I am proud
of this

All these trips were made at my own expense. I owed nothing to
Faurisson, not being a robot for his exclusive use. I had undertaken the
work in order to complete documentation I required for my novel and
there was no question of my giving this up in favour of a «crazy
hypothesis» that was turning out to look increasingly unlikely and
undefensible as I delved further into the drawings and files. His battle
was no mine. I first continued my own research concerning the founder
and former commandant of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration
camp, SS Lieutenant-Colonel Rudolf Hoess. The manuscript of his
«Autobiography» was long declared to be «mythical» by the French
extreme right. Faurisson claimed it had emerged directly from the
headquarters of falsifying Soviet-Polish-Stalinist communists. When
I asked Iwazko for this manuscript, he brought it to me [Photo 30]
without any hesitation and I was able to consult it at my leisure. The
thing that struck me the most was that Hoess had written several
hundred pages without any crossings out. At first I thought that this
could not be his first version, but the resultant of previous drafts. I
was no doubt wrong, for many people, very self-controlled, write in this
fashion [which is far from being my own!]. I discovered, but I was not
the first to do so, that only the autobiographical part [about half the
pages] had been published at that time, and that virtually all the notes

Hoess had written about the officials with whom he had been in contact
and about various inventions of the Third Reich that he knew, remained
unknown. I would add that Hoess' manuscript was written in pencil [a
normal constraint in the case of prisoners, but of capital importance in
the eyes of the revisionists because it facilitated falsification by the
Polish-Stalinist employees of the Auschwitz Museum]. I was also able
to see that the French translation by Christian de Geunwald,
published by René Julliard in 1959, was of mediocre quality. The only
valid and usable French version is that by Jerzy Radecki in «Auschwitz
ou par les SS» Auschwitz State Museum, 1974. Unfortunately, this
edition presents only that part of the memoirs concerned with
Auschwitz. What is more, the preface of this book written by Jerzy
Radecki is somewhat excessive. It is difficult to follow him in his
presentation of a Hoess [commandant of the camp] who slipped [and
the guards?] at night [like a robber] into the basement [what comfort]
of Block 11 [known as the «Death Block»] to join a prisoner, Elzbieta
Hodys, and succeeded in making her pregnant [whereas Dr Guilbert,
American psychoanalyst at Nuremberg maintained that Hoess was not
much inclined to philandering]. Radecki also claims that Judge Jan
Sehn, who led the interrogation of Hoess for his trial [Photo 31 to 35], who
was on his confidence and succeeded in making him talk, completely
frankly, despite the few illusions that Hoess could have had about the
fate awaiting him, was mistaken in his assessment of the truth of what
his «client» had to say. Who knew Hoess better, Jerzy Radecki or Jan
Sehn [Photo 36], who had countless interviews with Hoess?



Photo 19
(Photo by the author)

The dummy Krematorium chimney for the film «MUR»



Photo 21
(PMD neg. no. 1-13)

SS I westerner Colonel Rudolf Höss, former commandant of Auschwitz and then head of Detachment D1 of the SS-WVHA Concentration Camp Inspectorate, arrested by the British on 11 February [March in the published version] 1946 at Flensburg in the north of Schleswig. Höss is under the pseudonym of Franz Lang, after his appearance before the Nuremberg Tribunal on 30 April as a witness for the defence of Kaltenbrunner. Handled over by the Americans to the Polish authorities on 25th May 1946.



Photo 22
(PMD neg. no. 2-1)

First commandant of Auschwitz. Rudolf Höss at the opening of his trial before the Polish Supreme Court in Warsaw on 11th March 1947.



Photo 23
(PMD neg. no. 32-56)

The so-called Höss bracelet of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp during his trial in Warsaw, held from 11th to 26th March 1947.

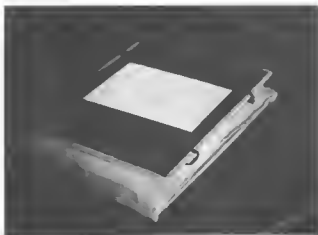


Photo 24
(Photo by the author)

The «methodical» transcript and/or «interview» (Höss's interview, entitled: «Meln Pyshe: Worden, Leben und Fiktion») (Meln Pyshe: Worden, Life and Experience) preserved in the PMD archives. Published in England by Pan Books under the title: «Commandant of Auschwitz».



Photo 24
(PMD neg. no. 42-57)

Höss, the technician of planned death, during the reading of the charges drawn up by Judge Jan Ślesia.



Photo 25 (PMD neg.)

Höss, condemned to death by a sentence passed in the name of the Polish Republic, on 2nd April 1947, shortly before his being hanged on 16th April 1947 before concentration campers in the Auschwitz main camp.

While I was studying the BW 30/31 file, known as the DAW (Deutsche Ausrüstungs-Werke/German equipment works) "Schlossermetallwerkshops" file containing the "Waffenliste/orders" issued in 1943 by the "Zentral Bauleitung der SS und Polizei, Ausschuss OS/Waffen SS and Police Central Construction Management, Auschwitz, Upper Silesia," for "SS-Werke/work sites" 5a, 5b, 30, 30a, 30b, 30c and 32 [respectively the B.I delousing installations, the four Birkenau Krematoriums and the Zentral Sauna], I discovered an order of 13/24/43 to make for KGL Krematorium IV and V +12 Stück gasdichte Türen ca 30x40 cm/12 gas-tight doors approx 30 x 40 cm, signed by the site engineer Technikum and countersigned by the head of the Bauleitung, SS Major Bischoff. While the three known drawings of Krematorium IV and V did not mention any gas-tight openings, I had proof that shutters, rather than doors in view of the size of, this type had been ordered on 13th February 1943, were on 24th and 25th, and completed on 26th, this being inscribed on the back of the order. Then, in file BW 30/28, concerning work in Krematorium IV and V carried out by the Elvish firm Riedel & Son of Bielefeld, I found in their "Tagelöhner/Dayly (time) sheets", two reports, one of 20th February 1943 mentioning "Gasschichtenträger versetzt/Fit gas-night shutters" [PWA 27] and the other of 2nd March 1943, containing the entry: "Fullboden betonierte im Gaskammern/Concrete floor in gas chambers" [PWA 38]. Then, on 2nd March 1943, civilian workers formally designated a room [in the western part of] "Einbauschichtanlage 4/Cremation installation 4a [Krematorium IV] by the term "gas chamber," BECAUSE two days earlier they had installed "gas-tight shutters" in II [three of these are now kept in the former coke store of the "Old Krematoriums].

I did not immediately make the connection between the two files, and even less did I realize the value of my "finds." Faurisson had just published his "Mémoire en défense. Centre ceux qui m'accusé de falsifier l'Histoire. La question des chambres à gaz [Statement for the defence. Against those who accuse me of falsifying history. The question of the gas chambers] (La Vieille Taupe, 1980). All the discussion was concerned with the famous paper by Natan Chomsky. That Faurisson should have scored a victory in having his book prefaced, in the name of sacrilegious freedom of expression, by a most celebrated American Jew, who in fact knew nothing about the demolition work the "professor" was involved in, was the least of my worries. Only Auschwitz mattered, and in particular the documents that I had found but of which I did not have copies. I returned to France on 21st November and met Faurisson at Guillaume's home on 27th. I confronted him in the midst of members of La Vieille Taupe who were coming and going and occasionally gathered round us. I told him that there were far too many traces of "GAS" in the Museum Archives for me to be able to go on believing in the validity of his hypothesis.

He asked me to change my mind, but since I had myself found unpublished "criminal traces," I could not possibly turn back. He asked me to remain "neutral" until the trial. I promised that, and he then inscribed a copy of "Mémoire en défense" with the following text:

"To Jean-Claude PROSSAC

whom we call SCHUEMMANN because he is one of that rare breed of scholars who actually find, I dedicate this copy of my *Mémoire*, because he is one of the few who have adopted history, which consists of not making lies between extermination and revisionism in order to restore conscience and impartiality, what was the material and material reality of Auschwitz.

With all my esteem

R. Faurisson

27th November 1980, at the home of Pierre Guillaume

His dedication left me free to continue my research provided I did not wish to prejudice his legal defence. Confronted with the new evidence, Faurisson and Guillaume had a moment of indecision, seeing the possibility of throwing in the sponge and officially declaring that it did appear that some homicidal gasings had taken place at Birkenau. But they were too committed to negation pure and simple to backslide now, and the opposing party was hard on their heels. Being given a free reign by Faurisson meant I was now on my own, somewhat perplexed and only half-way through my quest. The documents provided to me that gas chambers had been installed in the Krematoriums, but this conviction in no way solved the problem of how these installations actually worked. My meetings with the others became less frequent and constant was virtually broken off. I had to reconstitute for myself the documentation that Faurisson had and that I had been working on. The Museum filed the gas easily, for in fact Faurisson possessed relatively little valuable material on Auschwitz. In order to make some use of the work I had done on the delousing installations, which locally agreed Faurisson's affirmations that using hydrocyanic acid was a complex business requiring sophisticated gas chambers, I decided to write a paper on these Auschwitz-Birkenau delousing installations and Faurisson lent a hand during our last few meetings, partly to keep my attention away from the "supposedly homicidal" gas chambers and also in the hope that he would be able to confuse the issue in the unlikely event that an unexpected "negative" result should be discovered by a "neutral" third party. The same procedure was to be found in the work of Henri Roques "Les confessions de Kurt Gerstein. Etudes comparatives des différentes versions," June 1983. Faced with a fire coming head on, one method of combating it is to light independent lateral fires. Faurisson was and still is behind Roques. I systematically studied the sanitary installations of Birkenau, comprising sewage treatment stations I and II, and the projected III, the numerous provisional douglaiss basins, the Zentral Sauna, Blocks BW 5a and 5b, and all the delousing gas chambers that had existed in the camp. Some of the results obtained are presented at the beginning of this book, in particular everything relating to the gas chambers. On the other hand, the material collected on the sewage treatment stations has been little exploited.

My regular visits to Oswiecim led to Iwaszko's gradually coming to have confidence in me, even though he was aware of my reticence regarding the "official" genesis of the Krematoriums. In return, I offered to act as postman between France and Poland for anything concerning the PMO Archives. That was how I came to meet Jacques Zyberme, one of the youngest surviving French deportees to Auschwitz. Of his family of six people, the only survivors in 1945 were himself and his elder brother. His father, mother and two sisters had perished at Auschwitz. He received a very courteous when I announced that I was sent by Iwaszko, whom he knew. But he soon saw that the young man sitting opposite him held no very orthodox opinions and seemed to him disoriented. He could have thrown me out, considering what I had to say and in view of his own past, but he did not do so, believing it to be better psychology to leave me free to act as I wished, and going so far as to offer his aid. As he told me later, he wanted to know to whom he and his comrades could trust the "keys" of their memory when they died. He taught me the bare essentials required for understanding the Jewish community. Then we became friends. It was impossible for me to be his friend and at the same time to maintain contact, even sporadic, with Faurisson, for whom Zyberme's family had merely been "scattered." I broke completely with Faurisson in March or April 1981. During the period during which he honored me with his friendship

while knowing that I had worked for Faurisson, Mr Zyberme did not mention me to any of his entourage, which he might well have done. I also learned that he knew Georges Wellers and a former member of the Sonderkommando, Alter Fajnzylberg, whom I was unfortunately never able to meet. In June, he was at the various sessions of the Faurisson trial.

Among these sessions, I must mention the afternoon of 1st June 1981, for it was exceptional. Maître Bernard Jouanneau was speaking. At that time I was unaware that he had personally been to Poland to find documents on the gas chambers, as counsel for the LICRA, honestly asking himself whether the "genocide book place as it has been described and on the scale that has been claimed." I listened to a great advocate pleading admirably for three hours, bringing to life before the Court the demerits of one of the most sombre periods in man's history. Absolutely rigorous, the content of his pleading prefaced the book "Les chambres à gaz, secret d'Etat" published by Editions de Mautz in 1984. The implacable enumeration of testimonies and known documents proving the existence of homicidal gas chambers, literally flooded me. Faurisson was not present, of course. Listening to Maître Jouanneau, he would perhaps have realized that he could not tamper with impunity on the memory of millions of victims. Despite the rigid framework of the court, Maître Jouanneau made it an afternoon of poignant reflection, because for the first time he presented an overall picture of the question. I reacted so strongly to his words because, as I realized afterwards, I was still very much impregnated with Faurisson's ideas. But the emotion that I felt did not prevent me from noticing certain inaccuracies in Maître Jouanneau's implacable indictment of Faurisson's fallacious arguments.

His case was based mainly upon testimonies, but also presented some important "material traces." Practically ALL known witnesses were cited, except for Henryk Tauber, who is now the best one after comparing his deposition with the available historical material. Admittedly the testimonies cited were not random authorities, but the precision of the accounts and the date when the authors wrote them or had them recorded considerably influenced their degree of veracity. What are we to say of Fyrl Miller, who in "Tross and dans une chambre à gaz à Auschwitz" (Pygmalion, Gérard Wastel, 1980) [Published in the United States in 1979 under the title "Eyewitness Auschwitz" on page 15 of its account describes the "round red brick chimneys of Krematorium I, which he can never have seen in this state because he arrived in the camp in May 1942, whereas this chimney was already of square section as shown by a drawing of Krematorium I dated September 1941. What can we say other than that the book should have been annotated by a competent historian [this error was pointed out to me by the Auschwitz Museum. I had myself noticed others, but not this]. What can we say of the declaration by Pier Bred, with its tone of outrageous Polish nationalism and in which he places side by side Bunkers I and 2 which were actually several hundred metres apart, other than that his testimony will not be really exploitable until we know under what conditions and in whose company it was written. What can we say of the book by Dr Miklos Nyiszli, "Auschwitz: a doctor's eyewitness account", in which he multiplies on average by a factor of four all the figures concerning Krematorium II, where he lived for six months, except that I shall not rest until I find the original manuscript and can understand what made the author exaggerate so much. What can we say about Dr Bendel's allegations about Birkenau, in which the only acceptable truth is his own, except that he was a poor witness.

What can we say of the multiple versions of the Belzec gasings by Kurt Gerstein except that he was a polyglot, what to say of the figures he puts forward, except that they reflect the excessive emotionalism of an unstable man who had witnessed unbearable scenes. What can we say about the deposition by Alter Fajnzylberg of 13th April 1945, in which he states that twelve corpses at a time were gazed in a single cremation muffle in Krematorium I, except that it was physically impossible. What can we say of his declarations of 29th September 1980 before Maître Pierre Anai, a Paris notary, other than that, because of his age and what he had suffered there remained only vague pictures in his mind, difficult to describe. What can we say of David Strelawski, who was attributed the merit of having clandestinely photographed in August 1944, gasings and incinerations in Krematorium V, and who, having claimed that he had climbed on the roof of the Krematorium to operate, was deprived during the 60s of the paternity of these photographs taken on the ground, except that he was the sole survivor of this exploit. What can we say about former Krematorium III Sonderkommando member David Olère, cooly telling me in 1981 that the SS made satrages of human flesh in Krematorium V, except that he was still living in the nightmare that had been imposed on him and recounted anything that came into his head, whereas I held in my hands his own drawings of 1945-47 which are masterpieces of authenticity. What can we say about so many angular or fanciful testimonies, other than we must not act like Henri Roques [read Faurisson] with the "confessions" of Kurt Gerstein and conclude that the witness is not a true witness. Instead we must try, as Georges Wellers did in his refutation of Roques' "thesis", to assess the value of the testimony in the light of known documents and try to explain any oddities, errors and even lies it might contain as a function of the individual's nature, what he has suffered, what he has seen or not been able to see, the exact place where he was, the date of his deposition and of his deposition or his account. All this is important and should be given due consideration in validating, confirming or rejecting a testimony that can rightly be criticized. A good Auschwitz historian should now be able, when confronted with a former prisoner or SS man, or when reading the memoirs of one or the other, to detect immediately whether he is an authentic witness and what are the strong and weak points of his testimony 10, 20 or 30 years ago. "Parti Match" almost published the "Mémoires de Dr Meyerler." I read only one paragraph of the last page, not even concerned with Auschwitz, and could see it was an obvious fake. Maître Jouanneau, without necessarily adopting the reserved attitude of the historian, was right to mention these essential witnesses, even though their testimony should be qualified.

It was obvious to Maître Jouanneau that since the extermination had taken place in Poland it was necessary to go there to find the "material proofs" that were lacking in France. He formed his "unimpeachable conviction" on the basis of a physical trace in the Madanek camp (PWA 29):

There is one sign that for me personally appeared particularly revealing. Here, and I wish to make no use of irony, here is a photograph of the gas chamber at Madanek (PWA 30), where I went. Look at this closed door, with its metal bars, with its peep-hole. Do you think this peep-hole was used to inspect as it was being disinfected? Look at the bricks at the base of this wall, these red bricks have become black because they breathed hydrocyanic acid.

Production for Krematorium [IV], BW 306 of 2 fork-type anchors and 8 Schwaube/inspection tubes, the shortening of 4 anchors and the modification of 12 pulleys according to the instructions of foreman Koch, employed by Topf & Sons of Erfurt.

and he presented these 8 inspection tubes as being peep-holes for 5 [1] gas-tight doors, whereas in fact they were for the 8 guillotine doors of the big eight-rail furnace of Kr IV. From another file, known as «Metallworking shop W1», of which annex 15 of volume 11 of the Hoess trial contains certain passages and the original of which is lost, he extracted Order No 459 of 28th May 1943 for the fabrication of «fillets for a door with frame, air-tight, with peep-hole for gas chambers», actually for a disinfection installation in the Auschwitz main camp, and stated that the peep-hole was vauching Jews did not flee. This order is in fact the only one with no criminal content and was for a real disinfection gas chamber, probably that of «Stammalager» Block 1. Maître Jouanneau did not have the time to do the work of a true historian. Responsibility for his errors lies with the traditional historians, who did not appreciate the value of the documents found. These historians caused Maître Jouanneau and his translator, to go astray many times due to the famous «codings» and «camouflages». I have to admit that there was a certain coding involved with the word «Sonderbehandlung/special treatment», but the term is innumbrously «decoded» in several documents conserved in the CMC. However, the stubborn desire to interpret exclusively in terms of coding, to replace one word by another, has led to aberrations. To say that «Leichenkeller 1» is the codeword for the Krematorium II gas chamber is absurd. To affirm, like the translator, that:

«Leichenkeller» is a term unknown to the German language, [that] had a fleeting existence between 1941 and 1944 in the very closed circle of the SS.

smacks of dangerous bias. Declaring the movement authorization issued on 22nd July 1942 for a SSonne truck to go from Auschwitz to Dessau:

to pick up gas Zyklon-B for gassing in the camp, to combat the epidemic that has broken out.

to be coded is quite wrong. A typhus epidemic was in fact raging in the camp, as confirmed by Dr Johann Paul Kremer, an SS reservist, in his «Diary» on his arrival in Auschwitz on 30th August 1942. The authorization of 29th July 1942 is even more urgent, still for disinfection purposes. By contrast, that of 26th August 1942 requesting «material for the special treatment» and that of 2nd October 1942 [photo 37] for «material for the resettlement of the Jews», whereas the «coding» when the Zyklon-B brought back will be used to supply Birkenau Bunkers I and 2? There is no coding: a tape is called a tape. No doubt some of the disinfection gas was used as homicidal gas, and vice-versa. If the SS had wanted to use code, ALL the movement authorizations, without exception, would have mentioned gas for disinfection purposes. In all the files and on all the drawings that I have consulted at the PMO archives, I have never encountered a «code» otherwise, how [except on one occasion, on a drawing of June 1944], otherwise, how would I have been able to find «criminal traces»? The myth of «camouflage» is based on a letter of 6th November 1943 [Annex 7 of Volume 11 of the Hoess trial, or file BW 303/4, page 14], in which

Bischoff, head of the Bauleitung, after a conversation with Hoess, ordered from SS Major Caesar, head of Agricultural Service, a number of shrubs and young trees in order to form a ring of greenery around Krematorium II and III. At the time of the liberation, the tracks of the trees actually planted were as thick as my thumb. What camouflage! [Tarnung]! The traditional historians, thanks to this letter which does not even contain the word «Tarnung», introduced the idea of camouflage of the Krematoria, then extended it to documents because it fitted with the fabric of «coding». «Camouflage» makes it possible to claim that any quite ordinary document is highly «criminal». It is thus possible to produce incriminating evidence and build fictions starting with nothing. Krematorium II and III were never hidden by any sort of fence. Why would the cremation installations have been transformed into instruments suitable for the «special actions» if it were not so that the action could take place inside these buildings, whose walls totally hid the operations. Krematorium IV and V were «camouflaged» by hedges 3 metres high as from July 1944 because the big furnace of Krematorium V was out of service and open-air cremation pits were dug near the building. The SS wanted to avoid the uncomfortable panic that would ensue if the arriving victims should see such pyres. A certain amount of discretion was in fact used. The SS certainly did not broadcast the fact that they were gassing Jews in Birkenau. But the whole of Upper Silesia knew, more or less precisely, what was going on in KL Auschwitz. Walter Kempowski gives an example in his book, «Allmands, le service-valet» [«Germans, did you know?», translated from the German and published by Encre in 1980. A SINGLE German (a writer, born in 1910) among those questioned BECAUSE he was stationed in the region, states:

«I knew exactly what was happening. I was guarding the frontier in Poland. It was in August 1942. I had a place at Zakopane [a good hundred kilometres from Auschwitz] and we were counting two pretty Jews: nothing very wrong... And then the shootings started. It had to be kept secret at all costs. On my return from a patrol, some soldiers came to say: «You know, they've shot quite a few. The two pretty girls were in the group». ... Later on [1943], I saw trains in Oświęcim, and it was whispered that there were Krematorium furnaces that worked with gas. I said: «There are children there». They were crying at the wagons and calling for water. A woman next to me said: «They asked for it». Her daughter retorted: «But it's terrible!» But the mother repeated: «They asked for it». A little later, I left for Berlin, and there nobody would believe me! «Hans, you're starting to imagine things!» They were all antifascists. They just could not understand the business of the gas furnaces.»

I should like to explain the incident in the hearing concerned with the photograph album of Struchof. The album retained as an exhibit at the Struchof trial had these pages ripped out. That held by Maître Kornman was complete. On both copies [which I have studied] the photograph of the plan of the gas chamber, drawn by the French Military Justice in 1945, has something scratched out on the original tracing, namely the protective caulk on the outside, around the funnel where the water was poured in, no doubt to protect it. Since the original tracing had disappeared from the files of the trial, Fauresson, fixated on not being able to find the proof of this « falsification » [faced with the evidence, he tried to turn everything he possibly could to his account] had this pointed out by his counsel, Maître Delcroix. Nobody accused Maître Jouanneau of having «fiddled with the documents». The

amusing thing about this incident is that Maître Delcroix thought that only ONE copy had been tampered with, whereas in fact BOTH were identical.

It may appear that I praise Maître Jouanneau to the skies while at the same time criticizing his pleading. The fact is that the case dates from 1981 and it is thanks to advances in research into the history of Auschwitz since then that it is now possible to criticize what he had to say. Be that as it may, nobody can attack his masterly synthesis of the history of the genocide of the gassings. Nobody can deny that he found the irrefutable proof of how the victims were crushed together in the gas chambers, and that from a German source. In the gassing trucks, the SS crammed 9 or 10 units [Jews] per square metre. He demonstrated in masterly fashion to the «professors» that it was possible to get in at least 2000 people into the 210 m³ of the Leichenkeller I of Krematorium II and III. This seems to be very much the limiting case, but Maître Jouanneau's demonstration was superb.

I have emphasized Maître Jouanneau's pleading so much because in my estimation it constitutes the turning point between the earlier «traditional» history and the «precisionist» history now being developed. This compares two methods of working, the one based on testimonies, and the other based on documents that make it possible to assess the value of the witnesses' testimony. 1980-81 I disappeared of the actions brought against Fauresson by the LICRA and other associations, considering [as Raymond Aron said at the Sorbonne Colloquium in July 1982] that they smacked of whitewashing. Now, I believe that there was no other defensive option open to the people who fell they were being «attacked» by Fauresson's thesis. The man positive spin-off from the trial was the strong boost it gave to historical research into all the gas chambers. There was a real need for such research, for since the end of the Hoess trial, for which the investigation was led by Judge Jan Sehn, a Doctor of Law, the question of how the homicidal gas chambers actually worked had gradually fallen into oblivion. Jan Sehn had first published the findings of his investigations in Bulletin I of the Central Commission for the Investigation of Hidden Crime in Poland in Warsaw in 1946, then in 1955 in a special publication of the «Wydziałowa Prawnicza» (Legal Press) and finally in 1957, in a new edition, revised and completed, the English version being edited simply «Auschwitz-Birkenau». The Poles did not pursue John Sehn's work any further after his death, because nobody in Poland - except for rare exceptions and for political reasons - doubted the obvious facts. The staff of the Auschwitz State Museum had other more urgent tasks, such as preparing documents for the numerous trials and studying in detail the many subcamp camps around Auschwitz. They were more than a little surprised that in the West a debate should arise over the very existence of the gas chambers. This seemed utterly futile to them, since the facts were patently obvious and at Oswiecim, for example, grandparent witnesses told the story to their children and grandchildren. Who can doubt the word of his grandparents and parents? In defence of those who brought the actions against Fauresson, it must be said that the question was of a complexity that they had not foreseen, and not indeed had Fauresson. And neither was it suspected that the real confrontation between the «examinationists» and the «precisionists» did not take place in the Palais de Justice in Paris, during innumerable hearings, marked by boredom and suppressed tensions, but rather 1700 kilometres away, on the first floor of Block 24 of the former KL Auschwitz, between the Polish keeper of the PMO Archives and a French pharmacist passionately interested in history. Fauresson had already lost in

August 1980, but in the Museum, the match between the two sides [who were never real enemies] was only just beginning.

After the judgement condemning Fauresson, pronounced by the First Section of the First Chamber of the High Court of Paris on 8th July 1981 [announced on 3rd], I continued with my research, for the trial documentation had still not answered all my questions. Since I was alone, Mr Zytherme introduced me to Georges Wellers, the man he thought most likely to be able to help me. Wellers asked me to provide him with some proof of my knowledge. I wrote a short paper of about 20 pages, backed up by about 30 photographs, entitled «Realisation and study of Birkenau Krematorium IV and V». I had checked Krematorium IV and V because the volume of documentation on concerning them was less than for II and III, hence easier to handle [this is at the same time both true and untrue]. I gave him this study at the end of July 1981, and then waited.

In the meantime, I learned from a television programme that I watched quite by chance that a former Auschwitz deportee had painted canvases on which I was able to recognize features that I had already seen on photographs of the Krematoria. The picture that impressed me the most was of a face watching a gassing [photo 44]. I noted the name of the artist, David Olère, and rushed to telephone Mr Zytherme. After some inquiries, we presented ourselves at the home of Mr Olère [photo 38], former member of the Sonderkommando of Krematorium III, prisoner 106144. It was a revelation. In a reaction typical of all those who had been direct participants in the extermination [both Jews and SS], he immediately thrust before us the most horrible things he had painted. This accompanying account was in the same vein. We were told the mist of a kind of Krematorium delirium. But the canvases, and the preparatory sketches he gaily showed under our noses, for the pleasure of showing us grimaces in his painting, spoke quite a different language. That of truth and almost photographic precision. He was a craggy old man, carelessly complaining - as well he might after all he had seen and experienced. But his pictorial testimony on the Krematoria and the extermination of the Jews in Birkenau is the best we have known. Following his return from deportation he began to draw what he had seen and experienced, and between 1945 and 1947 he produced about one hundred sketches and that form the basis of his work. From these, he painted about thirty canvases of the Birkenau universe. As his sight deteriorated with advancing age, so the size of his canvases grew. In 1945, he had recreated from memory the plan of Krematorium III (BW 304, not B-360 H) [photo 38] and drawn a cross-section. He presented scenes of the living death of this Krematorium. David Olère's drawings are not perfect, but bear witness to accurate observation and contain details otherwise unknown. To appreciate the veracity of his work, it suffices to compare the sketch [photo 38] of the construction of Krematorium III as he saw it on his arrival at Birkenau on 4th March 1943 [49th RSHA order] of 993 Jews from Drancy, with a Bauleitung photograph [photo 37] taken in March 1943 during the pouring of the concrete roof of the furnace room, where David Olère often worked as from June 1943. As a prisoner, it is not possible to show the whole collection of his initial sketches, the most valuable pan of his work from the historical standpoint, because fifty of them were lent in January 1976 to Mymn Novich for an exhibition in the «Ghetto fighters' houses» in Israel and were never returned to Mr Olère, who was understandably most upset. He used to say that he had been deprived of half his memory.



Photo 30
(Photograph by Major Bernard Anderson)

Photocopy of a photograph taken at the Majdanek concentration camp in June 1971, showing one of the disinfection gas chambers thought to be a homicidal gas chamber. Between the two doors with their suspended purple-bellows, the darker bricks are of Prussian blue color, a sign of prolonged use of -Blausäure (blue acid), in other words hydrogen cyanide or prussic acid used as a disinfectant upon the name of -Zyklon-B-

13

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Kontrollzettelsteuern Aufnahmestellen | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eingang: 2. Okt. 1942 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| U.V.H.A. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Betr.: Fuhrer,
SS-Untersuchungsamt Dort. Amt vom 1.10.42. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Für eine Einweisung, für einen
LKW mit Anhänger nach Dessau zur
zweckmäßigen Abholung von unterhalb
der Judenmengen, die als KZ-
Den Kreislauf der Juden in
Mitleidung. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Liebe Herrschaften
unter der
an dieser Stelle
der Dienststelle in
den. Leutnant d. Jäger | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F. d. R.
Funkteleiter | | | | | | | | | | | |

Photo 32
(PMD microfilm 1061, p. 18)

Translation

Radio message 13
SS Garrison Radio Station Auschwitz.
Origins: WVHA [SS Economic Administration Head Office]

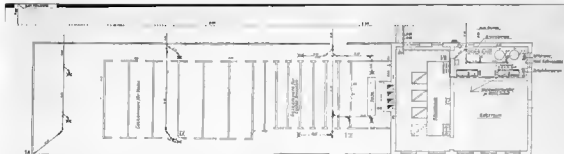
Received 2nd October 1942 at the Kommandantur of Auschwitz concentration camp

Subject: Movement authorized
Rt. Rogers of 3/10/42

The movement authorization for one 5-tonne truck with trailer in Dessau and return in order to pick up material for the resettlement of the Jews, is hereby accorded
This authorization is to be given in the driver

Liebeherrschel
SS Lieutenant-Colonel
permanent representative of the head
of the service with the rank of
Waffen SS Lieutenant-General

For file
[initials]
Head of the radio station



Photocopy 31

Translation of the Polish text

German drawing of the new gas chambers at Majdanek. The building consisted of large gas chambers suitable for use with the gas VENTOX, and 12 (8 in reality) smaller chambers suitable for use with the gas ZYCLON. The drawing is designated by the Germans as being for the installation of the water system. The project was not realized. Drawing supplied by the Majdanek Museum

Wszystkie plany nowych komór gazowych na Majdanek. Budynki takie powstają w różnych formach projektowanych do gazu VENTOX i do instalacji wodnej przeznaczonych do gazu ZYCLON. Projekt został opracowany przez Niemców jako plan instalacji wodnej. W rzeczywistości nie został on nigdy zrealizowany. Plan dostarczony przez Muzeum na Majdanek.

Plan nowego gazowego budynku na Majdanek. Budynek ten składał się z dużych komór gazowych przeznaczonych do gazu VENTOX, a 12 (8 w rzeczywistości) mniejszych komór gazowych przeznaczonych do gazu ZYCLON. Projekt ten służył do instalacji wodnej. Projekt nie został zrealizowany. Plan dostarczony przez Muzeum na Majdanek.

Legenda:
 - Komora gazowa
 - Instalacja wodna
 - Instalacja gazowa
 - Instalacja elektryczna

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------|--|
| Projekt | | Nr 494 | |
| der Be-Entwässerung- u
Hydrophorologie in dem
Gebäude der Gasanlage
in Lublin | | | |

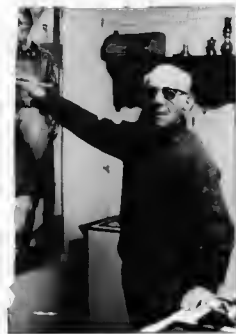


Photo 33
(Photo by the author)

David Olère in 1962 in the kitchen of his house in Nancy to Grand working on one of his last canvases entitled «By way of the *Lycée-B* gas chamber to the Nazi crematorium furnaces, Rabbits and Pigeons» etc. This painting is 131 by 162 cm. In the centre are a rabbit and a pigeon being beaten by an SS man. Upper left, Mollé is lying on naked women on the edge of the extermination pits near Krematorium V. Upper right is Krematorium III in operation, with four prisoners gassing in front of the stove. The canvas of the PMO, K. Strobel, confirmed to me that he had personally seen a similar episode, where rabbits and pigeons were all treated by the SS.

The catalog of David Olère's sketches and paintings was published in 1989 by the Beate Klarsfeld Foundation, edited by Serge Klarsfeld.

My own relations with David Olère were somewhat difficult, but as time went on, he began to realize that I had a very good knowledge of «his» universe. We were able to talk about it, and I took every



Photo 34
(Donated by D. Olère to the author)

«Chloé», a canvas of 175 by 110 cm composed of three scenes. Upper left is Bunker IV in winter; upper right Krematorium III under construction; in the centre (according to David Olère) is the face of SS Georges, delivered by the prophetic as he watches a gassing.

opportunity to do so. But it was not without difficulty. Whenever I pointed out that what he was telling me was incorrect, he would get angry and accuse me of calling him a «liar». He had a cynical and acid humor, which was part of his defence against the memories that obsessed him. Through his works, he unwittingly helped me to understand the arrangement of the Krematorium and of Bunker IV.

Having no news from Georges Wellers, I expanded my paper, which grew to 80 pages and received a different title, «Auschwitz, peaceful architecture...» and became the first volume of a complete study of the Auschwitz Krematorium. On 13th March 1982, out of bravado and because I had cited him in my dedication, I telephoned Faurens to announce the completion of my work on Krematorium IV and V. I was shocked and disgusted to find he had reached rock bottom, dragging his family down with him. A human wreck, hysterical, short of breath, panting, gasping out his responses, describing his «misery». But it has to be said that he had asked for it and well deserved it. Having seen the wind he had reaped a real whirlwind. What disgusted me was that he used his suffering to try to justify himself to me: «You can see that I was right, for the Jews are persecuting me!» Trying to pass off his false coin wrapped in pity was the last trick of Herr

Professor Doktor Robert Faurens. Heavens, how the mighty are fallen! His last attempt to stop me from continuing my research was in vain. I gave the new manuscript to Georges Wellers, and again waited No reaction. He was sitting on my work, and it remained unexplored. While the traditional historians had no documents on Krematorium IV and V, I had brought him bucket loads. It was too novel. While they spoke of camouflage, I said there had been none, and had photographs to prove it. My work was too heretical. While they had only two documents indicating the probability of gas chambers in Krematorium II and III, I was giving them two documents from a civilian source proving their existence in Krematorium IV. It was all too revolutionary. While official history had established that the Krematorium had been specially designed as extermination instruments, I stated that they had been converted to this end. It was too revisionist. As time passed, the criticisms rained down. I lost patience. I contacted Professor Pierre Vidal-Naquet and said to him «You wanted a second memory of Auschwitz. Well, I've written the first part». At first he thought I was mad, then when I gave him the manuscript he saw that my proposal was serious. When he had read it, he considered that my demonstrations were valid and soundly-based, but that the text was poorly organized and not publishable in its present form. Which was quite true. But the

documents that I presented were too important to remain unknown. He found a solution by arranging for me to take part in a Colloquium organized by the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales on the topic «Nazi Germany and the extermination of the Jews», held at the Sorbonne from 29th June to 2nd July 1982 and chaired by Raymond Aron and François Furet. I was accepted as an «intervenant» rather than as a «participant» because of my very late candidature. Only a week earlier, I had known absolutely nothing about the venue or the people I was to speak before. Vidal-Naquet succeeded in latching me, I went to the Sorbonne early in the afternoon of 30th June. The speakers were respectively Raul Hilberg on «The bureaucracy of annihilations», Prof Dr Wolfgang Scheffler of Berlin on «Die Gaskammern» and Georges Wellers on the number of Jewish victims of the «Final Solution». W Scheffler's communication, from which the Colloquium expected much, was not greatly appreciated by specialists on the topic, and they even regretted having brought him from Berlin because of the small amount of new information he provided. He had not succeeded in properly exploiting the documents he had obtained in Moscow. Appearing just after Scheffler, I commented the projection of 30 slides showing the genesis and evolution of Krematorium IV and V at Birkenau, speaking for exactly eighteen minutes. I was the only speaker at the Colloquium to present good contemporary photographs. They came from the photograph album of the *Auschwitz-Birkenau* [Construction Management] that I had consulted at the PMO in April 1982. A copy of this album had just arrived at the Museum, sent by the Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, who had bought it from a German sent from Berlin, who in turn had obtained it shortly after the war from a Russian officer who had spent some time at Auschwitz. I had had the great pleasure, the album in my hands, of detailing to Tadewé Iwaszko the captions of the photographs for the part concerned with the Birkenau Krematorium (photo 30 is one example). These unpublished photographs ensured the success of my intervention. Pierre Vidal-Naquet was delighted and called my exposé «clear and remarkable».

After the Colloquium, Georges Wellers considered that what had remained unsorted for a year now absolutely must be published after the summer holidays in the review of the CDJC «Le Monde Juif». But since he was not in agreement with my theories and I still challenged some of his, it was not easy to find common ground.

At the end of August 1982, I went to the Struthof camp whose gas chambers had caused much ink to flow. It was not an ordinary tourist, having already studied the crematorium and the gas chambers thanks to the documents in the French legal archives. After visiting the crematorium and listening to the guide's commentary, I emerged furious, resolved to stop all my research and stop my publication for «Le Monde Juif». There I was, presenting myself about putting some order into Poland's «crematorium» affairs, but before going to make a clean sweep over there, it was necessary to put on one's own little house in order. I was beside myself with rage when I got to the gas chamber. We were hardly inside the building, when I attacked the guide, telling him a few facts about the gas chamber. Then he took the group round, keeping his eyes on me. Once his long-winded patter was over and the visitors had gone out, he closed the door and we remained alone. I then told him the whole history of the camps. The poor man, whose parents had been indirect witnesses of the gassings, did not know what to say, and concluded as I left that «Nobody has ever explained all that to me the way you have».

What had I heard and discovered in the crematorium [Photo 30]? That the shower room [Photo 41] was regularly presented in publications as a homicidal gas chamber, which did not prevent the guide from declining that they were real showers, reserved for the SS who washed themselves with water heated by the incineration of the prisoners. That the urns had been transported to the room occupied by the prisoners [internees] responsible for the running of the crematorium. The urn room had become that where human guinea pigs were shut up waiting for «vivisection» in the dissecting room [1]. The door of their «prison» had been fitted with two heavy bolts and the window in the upper part had been replaced by a wooden panel after the war. The prisoners' room had a wash basin, which is normal. The urn room did not. It is now the other way round, and one wonders why the urns need a wash basin and why the room where the prisoners lived does not have one. Proof of this «switch» is to be found on the plan of the premises drawn on 29th May 1945 by the French commandant of the camp for the French Military Justice. [The camp, which was intact at the time of the Liberation, was repopulated with imprisoned or condemned collaborators.]

As for the gas chamber, the 86 unfortunate Jews and Jewesses gassed there to satisfy the impulses of a collector of skeletons, Professor Hart, had multiplied in the point of reaching 10,000 to 20,000 victims.

These errors have still not been rectified. I suggest the following modifications to the management of the Struthof Museum:

A - in the crematorium.

- 1) Return to the configuration of May 1945, i.e. return the urns to their initial room and return the bunk in the «gaseous» room to the prisoners' room, removing the inscription «vivisection»;
- 2) Open to the public the morgue of the crematorium, where executions took place (bullets were found in the filter trap under drain grid);
- 3) Open to the public the shower (disinfection section, indicating the current followed and explaining the operation of the disinfection chamber (which has never been studied) to differentiate it completely from the homicidal gas chamber.

B - in the gas chamber:

- 1) Retrieve from the Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation at the Besançon Citadelle the funnel with its tap that enabled the camp commandant, Josef Kramer, to carry out homicidal gasings (this item belongs to the Struthof camp);

- 2) Reconstitute the original installation used for gassing, protecting it by a glass or plastic case and formally indicating the reconstructed parts (these would be the metal tube for pouring the liquid into the gas chamber, three white tiles and 1/2 kg cement for fixing the tube);
- 3) Have the complete chronology and history of the gas chamber established by competent historians:
 - a) Origins of the building and state of premises before the war;
 - b) Use of a cold room as a gas chamber for training SS recruits in the use of gas masks in chemical warfare;
 - c) Installation of the device for pouring in a liquid, completed on 3rd August 1943;
 - d) The gassing «for the purposes of medical science» by hydrocyanic acid of 86 Jews and Jewesses between 7th and 21st August 1943;
 - e) The first eleven experiments concerning the use of urtropone as a protection against phosgene, carried out without any deaths in the autumn of 1943 under the direction of Father Bickenbach;

- f) The four terminal experiments of 15th June 1944 carried out by Hart, assisted by Bickenbach for the technical aspects, which caused four deaths due to acute oedema of the lung.

The commentary should condemn Hart, a Nazi doctor who abused his position of power, and exculpate Bickenbach, who experimented on his own person in the early stages of the phosgene experiment.

The photographs exhibited should be related to these events and not refer simply to any camp where gassings were carried out.

- 4) Abandon the designation «formal tanks» for the three white tiled baths with wooden covers. This designation is not based on any document and is a legend by assimilation with the synthetic alcohol tanks in the Institute of Anatomy at Strasbourg University in which the 86 corpses of the unrealized «Hirt collection» were preserved;

- C - Produce of a detailed photographic brochure on the camp, with archive documents and photographs from the French Military Justice, bearing in mind that visitors want to have precise, verifiable and irrefutable information.

Photo 35
(Personal archives)

Plan drawing of KREMATORIUM III [BW 30m] located in Auschwitz II [Birkenau], drawn by David Oltre and published in «LE DROIT DE VIVRE» (The right to live), Journal of the L.I.C.R.A. [L.I.C.R.A.], 15th February 1944, 31st year, No 316, page 3.

Translation of the key:

- 0 - The five 3-muffle furnaces
- 1 - Undressing room
- 2 - Vestibule where the SS controlled the victims' entry to the gas chamber
- 3 - Gas chamber
- 4 - Goods lift for the corpses
- 5 - Furnace room
- 6 - Incinerator for identity papers
- 7 - Collective chimney
- 8 - Store for documents to be burnt
- 9 - SS guard room
- 10 - Zyklon B introduction opening
- 11 - Cold store
- 12 - Cold wagon on rails
- 13 - SS entrance to the basement

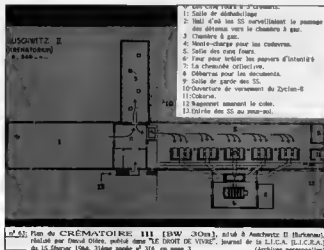


Photo 36
(Property of the Oltre family)

The construction of Krematorium III in early March 1943, as seen by David Oltre. The chimney is not yet finished. There is no photographic evidence to confirm that inmate prisoners transported the bricks required for its construction, but this is not unlikely. Although dated 1945, the caricatured SS man shows that the sketch was actually drawn some time in the 50s.

rested at the stage of «Saint Kolbe». For the Catholic Church has a shameful anti-semitic past that eclipses it from any rights over the former camp.

I shall give but one example among so many others, this one found by chance in a book published in 1895 that was distributed widely among our «dear little blond children» sitting well-behaved on the school benches. This is the work by Charles Hermeline, «A travers l'Europe». I have taken a passage (pages 301 to 303) concerning his visit to Cracow (Photos 42, 43 and 44). Read it carefully, bearing in mind that Hermeline was a French priest, and a schoolteacher to boot. You will say that it is very old, and that mentalities have changed since then. I don't deny it, but out of curiosity I calculated the age an adolescent of 15, open and receptive in 1898, hence born in 1883, would have had in 1940. He would have been 57, a man at the summit of his life, in all the power of his maturity. I looked (it must be admitted with an idea at the back of my mind) in the encyclopedia. «Lavié (Pierre), French politician, born at Châteaillon, Puy-de-Dôme, in 1883». No comment.

The Catholic Church has no business to be in Auschwitz, a place of intermental and atheistic sorrow par excellence. Dozens of

different nationalities were represented there. A little over one million people of the Jewish faith, the great majority of them women and children, were exterminated there⁶¹. And this because of texts such as that written by the «good priest» Hermeline. The Jewish performance in Auschwitz-Birkenau should therefore be absolute, though without neglecting the others, simply because of the weight of their number of dead. Canonizing Kolbe is almost an insult to the million Jewish victims, even if it has a beneficial effect on the Polish people. What would practising Christians say if the title of «Saint» were to be accorded to all the direct participants in the extermination, they who reached the absolute limits of horror? The extra-temporal planet of Auschwitz-Birkenau can but be a place for profound reflection on the essence of man, untrammelled by absurd religious beliefs.

In 1979 I had gone to Auschwitz to try to find the executioners' motivations, their attitudes, their thoughts when confronted with the machinery of death they had organized «on orders from above» [I was containing the experiment begun by Robert Merle in his «Death is my trade». Trained as an officer, I was supposed to know the limits of «orders». Technically, I wanted to know exactly how the «ruths» of Auschwitz were organized and the details of their inner workings. I

must admit that I scarcely gave a thought to the victims, not even knowing that the majority of them were women and children. Jews, apparently. What did it matter, I knew none and a good deal of the literature available up to 1945 stated in all manner of ways that they should be thrown out because they were «cosmopolitans», were destroying our «old France» that belonged to us, Chauvinist French patriots.

As I was working on Birkenau, I was obliged to meet these famous Jews. In the end, it was not the Hoess autobiography or the archive documents, the drawings, the original photographs or the ruins of the Krematoria that turned my initial ideas aside out, but the modest and simple testimony of Mr Zytlberme, as he told me his story in detail during a whole afternoon. For him, it was very painful. As for me, I could never be the same again. He succeeded in injecting his memories, which I now carry in myself. I had the impression of lifting the lid of the cauldron of Hell, a thing I am in no hurry to do again. Everything was recorded on tape at the wish of Tadeusz Iwaszko, but unfortunately this tape, with its so moving contents, went astray in Poland during a baggage transfer between airports. I shall never write about Mr Zytlberme's concentration camp experience. Although I accepted the

truth of his account from the outset and with no discussion except to ask him for more detail on certain points, I nevertheless found confirmation of an episode where his life hung by a thread in the Gliwicz camp thanks to the account by Father Robert Watz on the evacuations of January 1945 in «De l'Université aux Camps de Concentration». Just as I was completely open to the memories of Mr Zytlberme, so I doubted the verbal declarations of David Olère, though I totally accepted his pictorial testimony. The monotony of Olère's life in Krematoria III was simply not transmissible. It was neither his fault nor mine. A profound and confident communication such as I enjoyed with Mr Zytlberme, was impossible with David Olère, because although I could precisely materialize the physical environment of his life, I was incapable, through fear, of intellectually concerning the dematerial life itself.

Completed in August 1986

(B) 1,352,960 for G. Welter between 1,050,000 and 1,600,000 for R. Hilberg

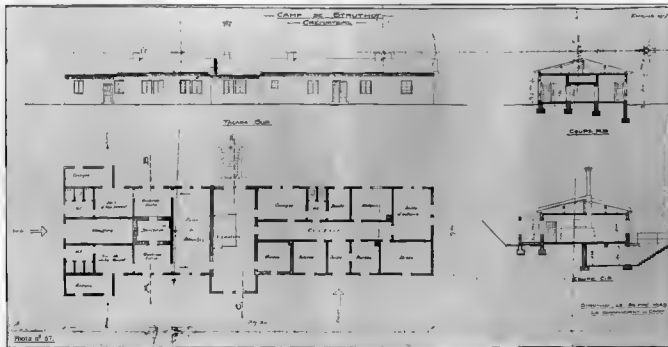


Photo 39

STRUTHOF CAMP Crematorium Scale 1:500

Translation of inscriptions,

FACADE SUD/SOUTH ELEVATION

COUPE AB/SECTION A-B

- Corridor/Store
- Salle d'habillement/Dressing room
- Garderobe/Somerset/cloakroom
- Entrée/Entrance
- Chaudière/Boiler room
- Désinfection/Disinfection
- Salle de déshabillage/Undressing room
- Garderobe Entrée/Entrance cloakroom
- Corridor/Store
- Salle de douche/Shower room
- Crématoire/Crematorium furnace
- Douche/Shower
- Médecin/Doctor
- Salle d'autoparc/Dressing room
- Corridor/Corridor
- Charbon/Coal
- Intervallence
- Bureau/Office
- Urinoir/Urine

COUPE C-D/SECTION C-D

STRUTHOF 29th MAY 1945
CAMP COMMANDANT



Photo 40
(Personal archives)

Photograph on page 70 of the commemorative album «C'était il y a 20 ans la libération des camps de la mort» [Supplément to «France Réserve» No 303], January 1963

The captain was «Toward the gas chambers» and the microphone top left reads: «The SS shouted: Move along to the showers» and the deadly gas did its work...



Photo 41
(PHOTO NEWS - photo by Terry Sauter)
The Belgian memorial designed by Serge Creux

Principal studies establishing that the gas chambers at Auschwitz-Birkenau were used for homicidal purposes :

- 1946 : **BIULETYN GŁÓWNEJ KOMISJI BADANIA ZBRODNI NIEMIECKICH W POLSCE** - Wydawnictwo Głównej Komisji Badania Zbrodni Niemieckich w Polsce.
- **OBOZY KONCENTRACYJNE I ZAGŁADY OŚWIECIM** [66 pages].
- 1955 : **CAMP DE CONCENTRATION OŚWIECIM** (Auschwitz-Birkenau) by Janusz GUMKOWSKI - Wydawnictwo Prawnicze - Warszawa.
- 1957 : **LE CAMP DE CONCENTRATION D'OŚWIECIM-BRZEZINKA** (Auschwitz-Birkenau) by Jan SEHN - Wydawnictwo Prawnicze - Warszawa.
- 1961 : **THE DESTRUCTION OF THE EUROPEAN JEWS** by Raul HILBERG (p. 563 to 571, 624 to 635) - Quadrangle Book.
- 1964 : **AUSCHWITZ** présenté par Léon POLIAKOV - Juilard.
- 1972 : **HANDSCHRIFTEN VON MITGLIEDERN DES SONDERKOMMANDOS** - Musée d'Etat d'Auschwitz.
- 1977 : **LES CHAMBRES A GAZ A AUSCHWITZ** par Georges WELLERS in *Le Monde Juif*, n° 86.
- 978 : **AUSCHWITZ Camp hitlerien d'extermination** - Interpress Warszawa.
- **THE EXISTENCE OF THE GAS CHAMBERS** by Georges WELLERS in
- **THE HOLOCAUST AND THE NEO-NAZI MYTHOMANIA** (p. 107 to 119) - The Besta Klenfeld Foundation.
- 1980 : **KL AUSCHWITZ**, Documentary photographs - Krynów Agencja Wydawnicza Warszawa.
- 1981 : **LES CHAMBRES A GAZ ONT EXISTE. Des documents, des témoignages, des chiffres** par Georges WELLERS - Gallimard.
- 1982 : **LES «KREMATORIEN» IV ET V DE BIRKENAU ET LEURS CHAMBRES A GAZ. Construction et fonctionnement** [Article, 39 pages] par Jean-Claude PRESSAC in «Le Monde Juif», N° 107.
- 1983 : **NATIONALSOZIALISTISCHE MASENTÖTUNGEN DURCH GIFTGAS**. Herausgegeben von Eugen KOGON, Hermann LANGBEIN, Adalbert RÜCKERL u.a. - S. Fischer Verlag.
- 1983 : **L'ALBUM D'AUSCHWITZ** par Peter HELLMAN, Jean-Claude PRESSAC - Le Seuil.
- 1985 : **THE DESTRUCTION OF THE EUROPEAN JEWS** by Raul HILBERG (p. 880 to 916, 976 to 984) - Holmes & Meier.
- Dans **L'ALLEMAGNE NAZIE ET LE GENOCIDE JUIF**, Colloque de l'École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (juin 1982) - Gallimard et Le Seuil :
- **LES CHAMBRES A GAZ** [Article, 26 pages] by Uwe Dietrich ADAM
- **ÉTUDE ET RÉALISATION DES KREMATORIEN IV ET V D'AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU** [Article, 46 pages] by Jean-Claude PRESSAC.
- 1988 : **LES CARENCES ET INCOHÉRENCES DU «RAPPORT LEUCHTER»** [Article, 11 pages] par Jean-Claude PRESSAC in «Journ 1» (December 12).

Principal studies claiming that the gas chambers at Auschwitz-Birkenau were not used for homicidal purposes :

- 1962 : **LE VÉRITABLE PROCÈS EICHMANN** by Paul RASSINIER
Les Sept Couleurs.
- 1964 : **LE DRAME DES JUIFS EUROPÉENS** by Paul RASSINIER
Les Sept Couleurs.
- 1973 : **DIE AUSCHWITZ-LÜGE** by Thies CHRISTOPHERSEN
Kritik Verlag, Möhrke.
- 1977 : **THE HOAX OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY** by A.R. BUTZ
Noomde Press, Los Angeles.
- 1979 : **DER AUSCHWITZ-MYTHOS** by Wilhelm STÄGLICH
Graben Verlag, Tübingen.
- 1980 : **VÉRITÉ HISTORIQUE OU VÉRITÉ POLITIQUE ?**
Le dossier de l'affaire Faurisson - La question des chambres à gaz by Serge THION - La Vaseline Taupe.
- **MÉMOIRE EN DÉFENSE**
Contre ceux qui m'accusent de falsifier l'Histoire - La question des chambres à gaz by Robert FAURISSON
Deuxième édition augmentée, La Vaseline Taupe.
- 1982 : **RÉPONSE À PIERRE VIDAL-NAQUET** by Robert FAURISSON
Deuxième édition augmentée, La Vaseline Taupe.
- 1983 : **IL MITO DELLO STERMINO ERRATO** by Carlo MATTOGNO
Seminella d'Italia, Montefalcone.
- 1986 : **AUSCHWITZ : DUE FALSE TESTIMONIANZE**.
- **AUSCHWITZ : UN CASO DI PLAGIO**.
- **COME SI FALSIFICA LA STORIA : GEORGES WELLERS E I «GASATI» DI AUSCHWITZ**.
- 1987 : **AUSCHWITZ : LE FALSE CONFESSION DI RUDOLF HOSS** by Carlo MATTOGNO
La Sifingo, Parme.
- 1988 : **AN ENGINEERING REPORT ON THE ALLEGED EXECUTION GAS CHAMBERS AT AUSCHWITZ, BIRKENAU AND MAJANER - POLAND** by Fred A. Leuchter, Jr., Fred A. Leuchter, Associates, Boston.